ASl delays approval of election while investigation continues

By William Douglass
Staff Writer

The ASI Board of Directors voted last week to postpone approval of last month's ASI election results until allegations of improper campaign practices are investigated.

Chairman of the Board Mark Denholm said the board voted to postpone approving the election one week, until the board's regular meeting Wednesday. In the meantime ASI will investigate charges that ASI President-elect David Kapic conducted his campaign after campaigning deadlines and that he benefited from a political rally held a week before the election that allegedly was organized by a faculty member of the athletic department, Denholm said.

According to ASI officials, preliminary findings are that Kapic did not violate campaign rules. In a formal complaint filed by ASI President Adam Taylor, who lost his bid for next year's presidency to Kapic last month by about 300 votes, Taylor charged that Athletic Director Ken Walker was in organizing a meeting of student athletes at Mustang Stadium during which students were instructed to vote for Kapic.

Denholm said a resolution was passed about six years ago forbidding state employees from becoming involved in ASI elections.

Denholm said that he, the ASI Election Committee and ASI adviser Bob Walters investigated the formal complaint. He said although their conclusions are not complete, they have yet to find any improper actions on Kapic's part. "It was out of Dave's control," Denholm said.

Kapic said the meeting was organized by student athletes and that he was not involved in the meeting. "I wasn't there, and I didn't find out about it until weeks later," he said.

Burnie Wohlford, ASI Election Committee chairman, said Taylor’s complaint is invalid for a number of reasons. Wohlford said a complaint must be filed within 24 hours of an event, and Taylor did not file a formal complaint for nearly a week after the athletes' meeting. In the interest of fairness, ASI decided to investigate Taylor's complaint anyway, he said.

Wohlford said that the meeting was primarily organized by students, and Walker played a minor role in the rally. But, Wohlford said, the rally could not have caused Kapic to win.

"David Kapic won by such a large margin, the incident wouldn't have affected the outcome of the election," Wohlford said.

Denholm agreed that the rally did not affect the outcome of the election. "Only 100 people were there, and Dave won by about 300 votes," he said.

However, one of the rally's organizers estimated the crowd at close to 300 students. According to biochemistry senior Rick Ravalin, captain of the wrestling team, the meeting was organized by Block P, an "honorary society of athletes" with a representative from each athletic team.

Ravalin, who is treasurer of Block P, said he and two other Block P representatives organized the meeting of student athletes to rally support for Kapic. Ken Walker was involved in organizing a meeting of student athletes at Mustang Stadium during which students were instructed to vote for Kapic.

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People must be treated equally

I have some thoughts on John K. Berry’s letter. Mr. Berry is correct. Swafford was presumptuous and rude. You imply that he doesn’t value ethnic diversity. Is this because he discusses alternatives to the racially discriminatory policies at Cal Poly?

Swafford states that under his proposal the “object of achieving cultural diversity would be accomplished.” Secondly, you imply that Swafford is white “coming from an all-white high school in an all-white town with all-white friends.” Do you know him well enough to make this claim?

I agree with you that this is 1991 and not 1951, so why don’t we start treating each person as an individual and not as a group member?

James Robinson

EL

Discrimination goes both ways

Two students are competing for admission to Poly. Their scholastic records are weighed against Poly’s academic standards. But one of the applicants’ records is supplemented by the addition of extra “points,” not for student accomplishments but because he belongs to an ethnic group. The other applicant is now at a disadvantage on account of ethnic origin.

Isn’t this discrimination? If it is, then it’s irrelevant which of the two students gained the advantage based on his race. Whether it is discriminatory practice to give ethnic preference is a question that is unaffected by which of the ethnic groups happen to receive that preference.

But the school values ethnic diversity! Tell that to the applicant rejected in favor of one with a lower point total before receiving extra “ethnic points.”

As a white student, I understand my objectivity is suspect. But note I’m not arguing against equal opportunity, the true spirit of which is to neither disadvantage nor favor on the basis of his race, creed or color. Nor do I have a quarrel with ethnic and racial diversity at Poly. In fact, I enjoy diversity — honest. So long as applicants are measured upon equal standards — splendid! Let there be a richly diverse student body.

But to give nonwhite applicants extra admission points for being nonwhite is discrimination against white applicants for the same reason it would be discrimination against applicants of another race.

In keeping with the belief that education at all levels but particularly higher education, is a process of empowering, I’ve given my classes this quarter a couple of “power words.” Professors always try to pass along their ideas, their knowledge, their “power,” such as it is. Else, what’s to “profess?” And a few special words, bestowed with special power come in handy. At least there have for me.

The words are “Pawoko* for my survey of American Literature class, and “Moko* for my American Indian Literature class. For Californians, these words have special medicine as both “native” and Native American words. In one sense, “Pawoko” means “rendezvous” and “Moko” means “to be born and leave.”

In another context than my classes, they are the names given by their caretakers, their parents, if you will, to the most recent California winner chicks hatched at the Los Angeles Zoo. But they seem like bestowing power words for students too, for faddings of another kind who one day hope to survive and to soar. So students (and I include myself in that lifelong designation) can call on their power words at any time — when they don’t know an answer to a particularly convoluted question of mine (designed to stimulate thought and attention, of course) and when they do know the answer to a question and wish to “five high” it. At times, “Moko” can even preface a question — or end it, invocation or benediction, alphas and omegas.

Some of my students have even taken to greeting each other with these words, in the old 60s tradition of “Peace” or of other older, more mythic traditions of the Navajo blessing way, “May the power be with you.” “May you walk in beauty.” That sort of Luke Skywalker thing.

Words about ethnic diversity can be interpreted differently

By Robert F. Gish

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New cyclone forecast for Bangladesh coast

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Forecasters on Sunday predicted winds approaching cyclone strength for Bangladesh's storm-devastated coast, and news reports said survivors from last week's killer cyclone lotted food trucks in one town.

Steedy rain and inadequate transport upset distribution of relief supplies Sunday to the estimated 10 million people displaced from the cyclone, and relief officials and physicians said "secondary deaths" may start soon in remote islands still awaiting aid.

The Red Crescent, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross, said the death toll in Tuesday's cyclone was likely to reach 200,000. The official count was put at 125,720.

Ethnic tensions rise as Soviet republics clash

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HEALTH

From page 3 and predictable up until now. Grammar school, high school and college all have offered the security of routine and direction. You were told what, where and when to do it. Probably omitted, however, was an explanation of why you were also directed how to do it. "It" is all about what classes to take and the requirements to pass them, how much one can truly procrastinate and how to balance partying and playing with work and school.

A major is chosen, but sometimes it’s selected by default. In any case, now may be a good time to change your major or to seriously look at graduate school in order to prolong the safety and security which going to school provides. But, eventually it is inevitable that one day you will leave school. Let me offer you some tips on how to achieve mental and spiritual health during times of major life transition.

First and foremost, one must change one’s view of what life is all about. LIFE IS DIFFICULT. Once one truly understands and accepts this fact — life is no longer difficult. Most people do not realize nor accept this fact — life is no longer difficult. Most people — to a greater or lesser degree — attempt to avoid their feelings. They hope they will just go away, or they drown the pain by using alcohol, trying to get out of them or skirt around them. The true meaning of life can only be found when we confront our problems and experience the emotional suffering inherent to them. Problems call forth our determination, persistence, courage and wisdom. It is only because of problems in the first place that we learn and our human spirit is allowed to grow. Also, the close bonds we form with others are based on how much we share our problems and our emotions with them. For some strange reason a lot of people think that they shouldn't 'burden' others with their problems or they should face their own problems alone. The truth that "we’re all in this together" can only be realized when individuals share their problems and emotions with others. No one is alone no matter what problems one is facing.

The healthiest individuals are those that don't dread but welcome problems. Their view is that life is nothing more than a series of problems waiting to be solved and there is something to be learned from confronting each and every one. The one thing that all of humanity has in common is that we each have our own set of problems. Those seniors not knowing where they'll be going or what they'll be doing may feel envy of those who are going to graduate school or already have job offers. Don't, they'll have their own set of problems. There's no escape. Embrace your uncertainty and the freedom it affords, it's just a problem waiting to be solved.

So, graduating seniors, ask yourselves: How do you feel right now? Really get in touch with those feelings and then share them with someone else who is also graduating, or if they are really intense share them with a counselor, family member or significant other. Get them out in the open. And really have faith that whatever lies ahead you'll be able to handle, whatever the next problem is you'll be able to solve.

Let's face it, you've made it this far — you've been problem solving all your life.

Donna Lynn Darmody is the Health Educator at the Health Center.

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Baseball flirts with conference leaders

Mustangs beat UC Riverside to close to within half a game of CCAA leader Pomona.

By Rob Brockmeyer

The Cal Poly baseball team edged closer to conference leader Cal Poly Pomona with a big road win over UC Riverside on Friday.

The Mustangs outslugged the Highlanders 12-8 for their third win in as many meetings. The win gave Cal Poly a 22-19 overall record and improves the team's third win in as many meetings.

The victory moves the Mustangs' offensive game, since he had run-scoring hits to fuel the attack.

That was plenty of offense for Mustang starter Dan Chmigay to get his team-leading seventh win in 11 decisions. The sophomore from Thousand Oaks has shown much improvement in his second year on the team. He leads the staff in innings pitched and strikeouts and has been Head Coach Steve McFarland's opening starter in many series.

The Mustangs will finish up the regular season at Boshamer Park when they host Cal State Dominguez Hills on May 15-16 for three games.

It's been called the "sport of kings" and was commercialized into an expensive line of clothing, but one group of campus-seek to shatter its "snobby" image and portray it as a sport accessible to all.

About 20 members strong, Cal Poly has one of only four intercollegiate polo teams in California. And they're quick to point out that this is real polo — with horses — not the liquid variety.

"We're sick of people saying, "Polo? That's what?!" said women's team member Lois Jimenez, also treasurer of the Polo Club, the group from which the team draws its members.

The club is in its 11th year at Cal Poly, but members say the sport has really taken off within the last three or four years. And, while mostly perceived as a male-dominated game, women outnumber men in the club four to one.

"Two years ago there wasn't even a women's team," said Martin "Mark" Pura, an agricultrue junior and co-captain to the team. Pura said women are attracted to the sport because they are likely to be versed in the "English" style of riding, which is seen in most equestrian events.

"Western" style is most prevalent in rodeo sports. According to team members, polo is enjoying recent popularity in the western United States, but it is still fairly rare at the collegiate level.

The sport is more established in the eastern region of the country, but that's quickly changing.

Melanie Brooks, a political science senior and president of the Polo Club, witnessed the breadth of the sport at a regional meet held at the University of Virginia but went on to say that intercollegiate polo in the eastern United States is better funded, employs professional coaches, receives heavy school funding and support and is recognized among professionals and by the United States Polo Association. In many cities, players begin at a younger age, and even high school polo teams aren't uncommon, Brooks said.

As a comparison, Brooks said the University of Virginia polo team owns 50 horses, has coaches for both the men's and women's teams and receives extensive school funding. Generally believed as the strongest polo program on the West Coast, UC Davis' team has 12 horses and two coaches.

Brooks said that "polo in general on the West Coast is taking off" and that its popularity probably will continue to spread to the collegiate level. Organizations such as the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, which operated a professional polo program before going bankrupt last year, helped to boost the image of the sport.

Brooks said the center is hoping to reopen later this year. At Cal Poly, polo is not seen as a major sport, but it is attracting the interest of Prince Charles and Sylvester Stallone, among others. In fact, the team draws its members.

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From page 5

the Polo Club is made up of many non-ag related students than ag-gies. Anyone can join the club and try to play, Jimenez said.

Over 400 horse owners train newcomers, “but it does help,” she said.

The style of polo the team plays, which is uniformly played at the intercollegiate level, or “melon” polo, played in a fenced-in area roughly the size of a football field. Each team has three players/pontes at a time or the field, with an additional umpire and referee riding to officiate the match. The object is to score “goals” by hitting a small ball into your opponent’s goal area.

To become a full “riding” member of the team, club members must first pass a riding test to prove they can control and properly ride the horse. After that, the tricky part begins.

Players learn to hit the ball with a long-handled bamboo or graphite mallet and hit the ball with any degree of accuracy is a lot harder than it looks.

“The first time I heard there was polo here, I knew I’d be hooked,” Smith said. She said she “couldn’t pass up the opportunity to learn to ride and the challenge of playing such an exotic sport.” Smith said she joined the club, took a riding class through Cal Poly’s animal science department and passed the club’s riding test. She has spent the last year practicing four days a week, two hours a day, fine-tuning her skills.

The team prides itself on its sportsmanship and ranks safety and concern for the horses as its top priority. The club owns four ponies and uses two privately-owned horses as well.

“Most of our horses have been donated to us and arrive in poor condition,” Jimenez said. The team “builds the horses up” and makes them ready for play. Smith said it takes a lot of “time, training, love, and sweat” to condition a horse for the sport, but the team has been successful with its ponies.

“We treat the horses the way they should be treated,” Jimenez said, adding that many professional players mistreat and beat their animals during play. As testament to their care and attention, one of the team’s horses, “Sethor,” won Best Polo Pony at this year’s regional match, held in the Bay Area, as voted on by players from each school in the region.

Being one of only four college teams in the state (along with Stanford, UC Davis and USC), finding opponents is sometimes hard, so the team travels to other regions for matches or breaks into small groups to scrimmage. This year, the team held two matches at Cal Poly, playing in an arena set up in the equestrian riding area.

“The club is always in debt,” Jimenez said, because the team is almost entirely self-supported. “We save a small $800 subsidy from ASI. In comparison, Stanford’s team receives $10,000 of student fees to conduct its activities.” In addition, Cal Poly’s team is self-coached because the budget cannot sustain coaching salaries.

“The money ASI gives us isn’t enough to board and take care of its horses for even a month,” Jimenez said. To offset expenses, year-round fundraisers and monthly club dues help pay for the animals’ feed, boarding, veterinary and transportation expenses.

But despite the shortage of funds and lack of university recognition, which the team says is due in part to the fact that the team doesn’t receive space on campus to practice or board its horses, Puras said, “Polo survives on its own,” mainly through the hard work and effort of devoted club members.

“We hope that maybe we can move on campus soon,” Puras said, pointing out that such a move would increase recognition and make the team more accessible. But there currently are not enough horse stalls or practice areas to accommodate the move, so the team boards and practices at nearby Buckley Ranch, located off Prado Road in San Luis Obispo.

Smith said polo has an undeserved reputation for snobbery and prejudice toward non-ag-related students, “But there currently are not enough horse stalls or practice areas to accommodate the move, so the team boards and practices at nearby Buckley Ranch, located off Prado Road in San Luis Obispo.”

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From page 6

Jiménez added that Cal Poly's all the needed items — horses, the sport since the club provides

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POLO

The Polo Club will hold a fund-raising evening at Tortilla Flats this Wednesday, May 8, and an upcoming auction, the date of which is still being decided.

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20th ANNIVERSARY

The Hofbrau is celebrating its 20th anniversary and wants to thank everyone for their marvelous support. Hofbrau is pleased to show our appreciation with a celebration for the next 8 months by having weekly and monthly prizes and a grand prize in November. We thank you.

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From page 1

"The runners never left ample time for an appeal to be filed," he said. He said that for the last three years, the clubs have waited until the night before the race to sign the permits.

He said that the group is not opposed to the race itself but to the timing of the race. "The timing of the race is bad," he said. "The environment is very sensitive in the spring." An enduro race is staggered. Four motorcycles leave the starting line each minute. This means that the noise level is constantly high and can scare birds from their nests, Sweet said. Dust is also a problem because certain plants that grow only in that area of the forest have trouble pollinating correctly when they are covered in dust, he said.

The Hi Mountain Enduro follows an 80-mile course of dirt roads and other off-road vehicles, Sweet said. Some feel that the noise level is constantly high and can scare birds from their nests, Sweet said. Dust is also a problem because certain plants that grow only in that area of the forest have trouble pollinating correctly when they are covered in dust, he said.

The members of the Bio-Diversity Group want people to use the forest for riding motorcycles, but they also want to make sure that the noise level is constant and time for breeding, Sweet said. Sweet said that he would not sign a statement promising to support the IRA increase. Kapic, Taylor's adviser, asked him to support his campaign and organized the meeting of student athletes to urge them to vote for Kapic, Ravalin said. The Bi-Diversity Group does not oppose the enduro scheduled for December.

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Kapic, after the meeting, Ravalin approached Kapic and presidential candidate Kim Forrister to determine their level of commitment to athletic programs, he said. The primary issue for which Block P sought support was the proposed Instructional-Related Activities (IRA) fee increase, Ravalin said. The IRA proposal would raise student fees to support the financially-strapped athletic department.

"We did not interview Taylor because he was already on record as not supporting the increase," Ravalin said.

Taylor denied that he was against the IRA increase. He said it would be premature to support the fee increase until its terms are formally proposed.

Ravalin said Forrester stated that she had backed the athletes, but that she would not sign a statement promising to support the IRA increase. Kapic agreed to sign the statement. Ravalin said that the statement basically just said, "I (the candidate's name) support the athletic referendum which will maintain the critical level of athletes." Ravalin said.

On the day before the meeting, another allegation of improper campaigning was raised against Kapic, causing the board to postpone approving the election, said Denholm. ASI members said they did not know who raised the complaint, but said that it was not Taylor.

Denholm said ASI rules call for candidates to stop actively campaigning after 6 p.m. on the day before elections and that Kapic was accused of breaking that deadline by making phone calls reminding students to vote for him.

He was calling friends on the night before elections, after the deadline, and asking them to vote for him, Denholm said.

Denholm said Friday that the board's preliminary findings are that Kapic did not break campaign rules by making the calls. Before election night, Kapic asked Wohlford and Walters about the propriety of making the calls, and they told him it would not be considered "active campaigning," and is allowed, Denholm said.

Wohlford said ASI will continue to look into both complaints against Kapic's campaign and produce its findings at Wednesday's board meeting.

Directors to approve the election, Kapic will take over as ASI president, said Denholm. Kapic said that although he was not involved in any political wrongdoing, some of the luster of winning the presidency had been dulled by the accusations.

"I really feel bad that I have to start my term under a sort of cloud," he said. "I shouldn't have been tainted at all."