Two Cal Poly students share realities of rape

By Anne McMahon

Wednesday, June 5, 1991

This is the last in a three-part series about sexual assault.

June 3 - discusses the frequency of sexual assault on college campuses.
June 2 - explores criticism of Cal Poly's sexual assault policy and what other campuses are doing with the issue.
June 1 - shares the experiences of two local survivors.

For O'Kieffe, an English junior, it all began on her bed, at night, in her room at Tenaya Halls, early in 1988. For Knight, a psychology and human development junior, it was 1990, midday in February, just off a winding country road.

O'Kieffe: "...not the kind of rape you read about!

O'Kieffe said she had been dating him for a few weeks. She had broken up with her long-time boyfriend over Christmas break. He had broken up with his girlfriend at the same time. They had that in common, and they were able to provide the support, companionship and understanding that the other needed.

In retrospect she remembers his persistence when they went out. How he pushed himself on her. "I just remember feeling flattened because he was attracted to me," she said. "He would always stop and say, 'Whenever you're ready.'"

But one night he didn't stop.

She had been out with her roommate, described by O'Kieffe as "a real party animal." O'Kieffe came back to the door first and left the door unlocked for her roommate.

"He came in and pushed himself on me," O'Kieffe said.

"I remember struggling and saying No, I'm not ready and still trying to be nice about it. I didn't want to hurt his feelings," she said.

O'Kieffe said she has had to deal with the guilt and blame that comes with rape. "Women are brought up to be nice and not offend people — not hurt people's feelings," O'Kieffe said. "You are still supposed to say no, but without being rude."

"I was sort of thinking, I just denied it the whole time," O'Kieffe said. "That's one of the best defenses. Your mind tries to protect you. I denied it. I was almost masturbating for hours after he left," O'Kieffe said.

"It was not an easy decision. I didn't want to hurt his feelings, but I definitely felt threatened and unsafe."

"It's not the kind of rape you read about in "The Rape Manual,"" O'Kieffe said. "And delay she did for an entire year."

Until the end of the school year she slept in the room, on the bed, where she had been raped. Each time she left her room she would carefully check the hallway before running out of the door where her rapist still lived. Each time she stepped into the bookstore, the University Union or library she was in fear of him.

"He is still a student here."

Joe Codispoti (left) and Dean Crawford have 31 years of experience between them, but they may be unemployed by July.

AV may see effects of budget ax

By Jeff Krump

Staff Writer

Approximately $650,000 may be cut from the School of Engineering. About $216,000 may be cut from the School of Business. And 75 Cal Poly faculty and administrative positions will be cut.

The list of Cal Poly's budget reductions contains many facts and figures, but there is a human side to all this.

Continuing students will pay more for fewer classes. Professors will not receive regular pay raises. Remaining faculty might complain about lack of pay and gripe about massive workloads. But these people are the lucky ones. They still have jobs.

Dean Crawford and Joe Codispoti are two staff members who may be unemployed by July.

Crawford, the graphic design coordinator for Cal Poly's audio visual department, and Codispoti, audio visual's photography coordinator, were told in April that they probably would not keep their jobs.

They haven't received their official layoff notices yet, but the bad news could come any day. "The first couple of nights were sleepless," Crawford said. "You go day by day not knowing if you'll get your 45-day notice." Crawford is a single parent raising two teenage boys. He also has a mortgage to pay in Atascadero.

"It's very stressful," he said. "I'll file for unemployment and hopefully find something local. I'm trying to get my resume and portfolio together, but everything is in limbo right now. I may have to move out of state."

"I made the mistake of telling one of my boys, and now he's having problems," Crawford said.

Crawford has worked at Cal Poly for 18 years. He qualifies for retirement, but has chosen to stay for family to support and could not afford to leave. Crawford is a full-time employee and Codispoti's friend, however, has a part-time position and could be fired by someone she worked with after an employee party.

He said what he first noticed about O'Kieffe was a change in her appearance. "I noticed her not looking very good — dark circles under her eyes," Luckman said. See ASSAULT, page 4

For anyone who is interested in making a difference, contact members of the President's Advisory Committee or go to the meeting today at 10 a.m. in Chumash.

President's Advisory Committee

James Landreth: 756-2171 or 543-8718
Robert Kodch: 756-2186 or 541-8120, fax 756-5292
Gene Morphy: 756-1521 or 543-9228, fax 756-5923
Art Glasgow: 756-2996 or 541-2317

Home phone numbers were obtained through the Pacific Bell phone book and directory assistance.

Voice your concerns about the budget-cut proposal.

Thursday's weather:
Sunny after morning clouds
Highs: upper 50s - 70s
Lows: low 50s
n.w. winds 10-20 mph

2.2 acres n.w. swells 8 ft.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I know I will sleep better at night knowing my ASI fees are going toward funding quality speakers like the brain-dead, drug-dotted, punk rocker named Jello, who tells us that our government is suppressing our individual rights and the way to remedy this situation is by burning the flag, sabotaging the government and legalizing marijuana.

Something is very wrong with the priorities of spending our money at this university.

The task force recommended a cut of more than $700,000 in the athletic department but President Baker gave in to the “Athletic Royals” so this campus by only cutting just over $200,000. At the same time the library budget by over $300,000.

The library hours will be cut even more, but Hay... we can spend that free time watching a Mustang football game. If Baker had stuck with the original $700,000 athletic cut we would not have to touch the libraries budget.

At the same time we have $6 million sitting in a bank account. If we are going toward funding quality speakers like the brain-dead, drug-dotted, punk rocker named Jello, who tells us that our government is suppressing our individual rights, should we spend our time worrying about our sports teams? If Baker had stuck with the original $700,000 athletic cut we would not have to touch the libraries budget.

I think it is time the students say enough. Write to the administration or President Baker himself. You can find President Baker at his rent-free house enjoying his new pay-rise.

When you find him, remind him that WE are paying the bills around here and that it is time we had a say on how that money is spent.

Richard A. Bear
History
**WORLD**

**Hong Kong vigil marks anniversary of killings**

HONG KONG (AP) — Tens of thousands of people joined a candlelight vigil at a park Tuesday in remembrance of those killed in the military crackdown on China's democracy movement two years ago.

The violence resulted in the deaths of at least 200 people, according to official sources.

**Overzealous reporters lost in volcano activity**

SHIMABARA, Japan (AP) — Pursuit of spectacular pictures has left 14 Japanese journalists among the 31 people missing in a deadly volcano.

The journalists were either inside, or not visible to people nearby, when the volcano erupted Tuesday.

**Walters House declares Mideast weapon deals**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House administration announced new Persian Gulf arms deals Tuesday and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said President Bush's plans for Middle East arms control do not mean the United States will stop supplying the region's weapons.

**Bush lobbies to keep China's trade status**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush was lobbying hard to preserve China's trade status with the United States on the second anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Bush invited senators from both parties to the White House to hear his arguments for extending China's right to the lowest possible tariffs for another year.

"He's going to make a very strong case for MFN (most-favored-nation) for China," spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. "He'll argue that it's the most effective way to influence events in China ... if we really care about democracy and reform."

**Suicide center worker tries to murder caller**

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Investigators say a counselor at a suicide prevention center got to know a caller and then tried to kill him, saying he was too demanding and "didn't have the guts" for suicide.

"It's frightening that someone like him could be working for a suicide prevention center with an undisclosed emotional state such as his," said Thomas Johnson, the deputy district attorney prosecuting Frank Snyder on an attempted murder charge.

Offi cers say, Snyder slit Ben Carlson's wrists nearly to the bone and then an accomplice slit Carlson's throat, but he survived.

**State**

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**Nation**

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**White House declares Mideast weapon deals**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration announced new Persian Gulf arms deals Tuesday and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said President Bush's plans for Middle East arms control do not mean the United States will stop supplying the region's weapons.

"We simply cannot fall into the trap of... (saying) that arms control means we don't provide any arms to the Middle East," Cheney told reporters aboard his plane as he returned to Washington from a 10-day trip to Europe, Israel and Egypt.

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<th>House</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Utilities</th>
<th>Gym Fee</th>
<th>Commuting</th>
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**ASSAULT**

From page 1

Then he watched her behavior change.

"I watched her not eat, not sleep, overeat, drink excessively, not drink at all," said Luckman.

**Knight:** "I still have nightmares..."

Knight's rape was of the sort that makes headlines, that sells newspapers.

A young, attractive woman, Knight is running near her home, on a lovely country road, in a semi-isolated area in the middle of the day.

She stops to pick up a can thrown from a car with three men inside. A comment is made. At knife point, she is directed away from the road and ordered to take off her clothes. With the knife still in his hand, one of the men rapes her while the other two watch.

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**SCIENCE & AG**

From page 3

If NASA accepts it, the simulator will be used as an "extended duration orbiter" to determine if feasibility of a longer shuttle trip, said Ryan. The current shuttles stay in space for up to 10 days.

He said that all of the instruments will be exact replicas of those aboard the actual shuttles, and that the simulator will be able to be moved to the vertical launch position and back to the horizontal flight position.

Ryan said that NASA hopes to conduct 13-28 day "missions" in which NASA researchers and students will actually stay in the Resolution. Although incapable of simulating zero gravity, the Resolution's "missions" will simulate other flight conditions, such as space for people and supplies and the feasibility of performing experiments.

Al Holland, psychologist and chief of NASA's behavior and performance laboratory at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, said that no agreements have been made to use the Resolution, but the idea has potential.

He said that NASA officials plan to come to Cal Poly in August to see the simulator and determine if it will be able to help upgrade the current shuttle's capabilities.

Holland hopes that the Resolution can be used as a "rest bed for many different things," including determining what multi-cultural crews would affect the individuals involved in shuttle missions, he said.

Holland would also like to test the effects that crowding and confinement could have on crew members by varying the number of people on the test missions.

Holland hopes that the Resolution will provide the means to perform those tests, but he said SPAN's simulator would have to be very similar to the actual shuttles.

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**El Corral Bookstore**

In celebration of commencement, El Corral Bookstore will deduct 20% from the price of selected merchandise during the Annual Graduation Sale.

Discounted 20% for the sale will be Gifts, Books, School Supplies, Stationery, Art, Craft and Technical Supplies, Film and Photo Supplies, Gift Wrap, Greeting Cards, Cal Poly Clothing, Jewelry, Food and many more items from our regular stock. Also save an additional 20% from the already discounted price of books in the General Book Department.

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**THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO THE RAPE CRISIS CENTER,** said Knight. She still is involved in a support group at the Rape Crisis Center. "I would recommend that to anybody. I'm a great place to go to and get supported.

There's (survivors of) acquaintance rape, date rape, molest — everything — in this group. Even though you learn that what has happened to you is in the past, you still feel the same way. Even with people who have been molested. Our issues are still the same," she said.

Like O'Keefe, Knight tells of the fear, loss of trust and nightmares. "I still have nightmares. I think it affects my life every day."

"At first I trusted no one, I trusted Hobey (her boyfriend), my mom, and that was it," Knight said. Even though the experience was a terribly difficult one, Knight feels the system — at least the people in it — worked. See ASSAULT, page 6
The other victims of rape...

Men whose loved ones have been sexually assaulted struggle with their own feelings of helplessness and frustration.

By Anne McMahon
ASSAULT

From page 4

really well for her.
Knight said, "I can't really say enough about the Victim Witness Assistance Office, Rape Crisis Center and the whole court system, and how wonderful they are.
"Sometimes I think that people talk about the system so much that they forget that the people in it really are wonderful.
"The people in the system are trying like hell.
inthe normal course of business, went to court Victim Witness Assistance "would send about five people" whenever she went to court.
And a woman from Rape Crisis Center was able to sit up in the witness box with her.

'Something with a criminal case'.

San Luis Obispo District Attorney Barry T. LaBarbera is someone who would like to see more survivors access the resources available locally, even if they decide not to press charges.
"At the very least, any woman assaulted should go to the Rape Crisis Center," LaBarbera said in an interview last month.
He said anything that happens would be confidential and would not involve either agencies without the survivor's permission.

"We would never put a victim through the criminal justice system, if she didn't want to," he said.
LaBarbera is president of Rape Crisis Center's board of directors. He acknowledges that some survivors are better off not reporting the crime to law enforcement, or at least waiting until after they have begun to deal with the emotional trauma.
He said, "When a victim reports to law enforcement, if they know the perpetrator, we will talk with the victim. If she feels she is unable to go through the process we may refer her to a therapist who can help her deal with the system.

"We may put off the filing decision until she can contact family and friends and her own support system." LaBarbera said, ultimately, any filing decision is "pending her willingness."

There are certain advantages to reporting to law enforcement, LaBarbera said, especially if it is done soon after the attack.
Not only will the physical evidence obtained in a SART examination be more complete, but according to a SART office employee who wishes to remain anonymous, if the exam is authorized by law enforcement the $600 charge is not billed to the victim, but "paid for at public expense.

And LaBarbera said that once a defendant is charged, even if the case is later dropped (if, for instance, the survivor decides she does not want to go through the court proceedings), the victim is then eligible for compensation from the Victim of Violent Crime Fund.

The fund, which comes from fines that criminals pay, is used to offset expenses incurred by victims, including medical and therapeutic.

Another advantage to early reporting mentioned by LaBarbera is that, "proceeding with a criminal case will be easier for the victim to deal with if she is less vulnerable to impeachment (not being believed). In other words, in the minds of the jurors, she might be more credible.
LaBarbera said that because it is virtually impossible that a rape survivor end up on such a jury, some jurors might see waiting to report as "inappropriate."

Knight said she thinks dealing with an acquaintance rape (like O'Kieffe's) would, in some ways, be harder than her situation has been.
"In my case it's easy to say, 'They did it. I'm innocent. They're guilty.' And everyone else says that.
"I think in an acquaintance rape, while you may say that, from the system's point of view, it's a lot harder.
Knight felt at times like she was being questioned.
"I still felt that I was being accused," she said.

See ASSAULT, page 8
From page 5
I felt so helpless because I didn't know who this person was," he said.

"I felt powerless because I didn't know where they come from."
ASSAULT

From page 6 questioned, or maybe some people thought I asked for it, or something. For me to feel like that I can imagine how that must feel (to the survivor of ac­ quaintance rape.)

Knight's attacker was found guilty and sentenced to 27 years in prison.

"... It seemed like it was Alice that was on trial!

O'Keffe found out how it feels to be questioned.

A year after her rape, Carolyn Hurwitz, who was then a health educator at the Health Center, came to speak to O'Keffe's sorority about acquaintance rape.

O'Keffe said that as Hurwitz spoke she became more and more afraid that Hurwitz was talking about O'Keffe's own rape story.

In a telephone interview from Indiana, Hurwitz said, "She (O'Keffe) thought someone (from the sorority) had found out and that I had been invited, and she was probably not the only person in the room who had that reaction."

O'Keffe later visited Hurwitz at the Health Center and decided to file a complaint on campus about the sorority's actions.

Her first meeting was with Carl Wallace, associate dean of Student Affairs. She expected to be believed, she expected to get results, she expected the system to work. Instead she was almost im­ mediately felt like she was the one being accused, or at least not believed. After being asked ques­ tions which she felt were inap­ propriate she called Hurwitz to accompany her to further meet­ ings.

Michelle Todhunter, a graduating senior in home economics, was one of O'Keffe's friends questioned by Wallace before the investigation was suspended.

Last month she talked about that interview.

"It was definitely the type of scenario that seemed like it was Alice that was on trial — what type of person she was," Todhunter said.

O'Keffe recalls that Todhunter told her that Wallace had inquired about O'Keffe's sexual activities with the ac­ cused prior to the rape.

O'Keffe and Hurwitz later met with Vice President of Stu­ dent Affairs, Hazel Scott and later with President Warren Baker.

Hurwitz said, "Hazel Scott vowed her faith in Carl Wallace and suggested that Alice had misunderstood his questions.

"President Baker was very kind and asked all the right questions," Todhunter said. "But he didn't follow through.

A couple of weeks after the meeting with Baker, O'Keffe received a letter stating that Wallace would be going up for investigation where it had been left off. That is when O'Keffe stated that she lost all faith in the sys­ tem ever working for her.

... services on campus were terribly lacking!

Hurwitz said when she first came to Cal Poly in 1986, "there wasn't much going on with rape awareness programs.

"I really took on the educa­ tional component of that," said Hurwitz. "While it was intended to be preventative in nature — teach­ ing how to avoid being raped — more and more we found that a lot had already experienced it. So the focus shifted to what to do after the fact," Hurwitz said.

"We found that services on campus were terribly lacking!"

Hurwitz said that alcohol is a big contributor to the problem.

"I can't even tell you about how many women I saw at the Health Center who had to be told what they had done the night before."

Hurwitz said, "there are men who would sexually assault a passed out woman, and then say 'she didn't say no.'" She said other men just do not believe that 'no' really means 'no.'

She recalls Hurwitz's in­ volvement in O'Keffe's case.

Dr. James Nash, director of Student Health Services, said in May, "I personally had to ask Carolyn to back off with some of the sexual assault stuff she was doing because she was getting in over her head.

"She's not a trained coun­ selor," Nash said. "She also got emotionally involved. It really wasn't her function to handle cases of sexual assault, though I had no problem with her being part of the back-up. But I didn't want her to see the same person ever and ever."

Hurwitz said, "Some of the ad­ ministrators wanted my job to consist of, decorating bulletin boards about the proper way to take care of yourself — temperature and remove earwax. 'I was ruffling feathers,'" she said.

During that time, a memo of "dos" and "don'ts" for health education was sent to Hurwitz. Under the "don'ts" were:

DO NOT spend time on one­on-one rape "counseling," eating disorders, etc.

DO NOT devote significant amount of time on campus programs (date rape, Wellness, etc.) at the expense of Health Center clinical issues.

Donna Darmody is the health educator who worked with Hur­ witz and filled her position when she left to attend graduate school.

Darmody said that while she knows she is supposed to con­ centrate on issues like hay fever and colds, she has also con­ centrated on some of the "don'ts" and has received neither oppo­ sition nor support from the ad­ ministration.

Hurwitz was happy to hear that O'Keffe has become an ac­ tive educating others about ac­ quaintance rape.

She recalls O'Keffe had "one of the strongest spirits of any young woman I have ever met, and was not a self-serving per­ son.

Hurwitz, a rape survivor her­ self, said, "What I have in com­ mon with every other survivor I have ever talked with is that I never, never thought it would happen to me."

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Congratulations to this year's grads.

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Jodi Keith
Judy Naess
Julie Thompson
James Gama
Kenny Macleod
Denise Watte
Gary Howard
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Chris Soderguist
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