Unhappy hunting

Cal Poly students search the job board in the placement center for potential employment. If local trends are any indicator, jobs may be increasingly harder to come by.

Unemployment rate tapers off

Local agency official calls current figures misleading

By Edwin Bill
Staff Writer

Statistics released Monday show San Luis Obispo County's unemployment rate may have risen only slightly in November, but one local official says there are more newly unemployed workers than ever.

"We've been very busy," said Norie Placak, manager of the state Employment Development Department office in San Luis Obispo.

She said the official unemployment rate in November of 5.1 percent, up from 4.9 percent in October, is only an estimate derived from small surveys and standardized formulas. That statistic is not entirely representative of local job market conditions, which she indicated have grown steadily worse.

"People are coming into my office that traditionally had not risen only slightly in this time of year," to apply for state unemployment benefits, she said. Placak said she has seen a dramatic increase in newly unemployed workers from a broad spectrum of businesses seeking financial help.

Placak's own, unofficial figures for the local EDD office show that last month there were more new applicants filing unemployment insurance claims than in any month since she began keeping these records in 1984.

In the last three months of 1991, over 6,500 newly unemployed workers filed for benefits, an increase of 29 percent over the same period in 1990, and more than double the number of applicants from the last quarter of 1989.

It is normal for the jobless rate to climb during the winter months, Placak said, due to the "seasonality" of important local industries.

Agricultural and construction-related business activity slows down during the winter, and Placak said she sees more of these workers seeking state unemployment insurance benefits at her office.

Earl Patton, financial secretary and business agent for Carpenters Union Local 855, said the "seasonality" of important local industries.

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**NATION**

**BCCI pleas guilty to federal racketeering**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International offered a guilty plea to federal racketeering charges today. A federal judge deferred a decision on whether to approve the plea agreement, including forfeiture of all BCCI's U.S. assets. The $550 million forfeiture would be the largest criminal forfeiture in U.S. history. U.S. District Judge Joyce Hens Green said she will announce on Jan. 24 whether she will accept the agreement after considering the plan and objections raised by other BCCI creditors. The judge asked Brian Smouha, the court-appointed representative of the international liquidators who have taken over BCCI, what plea he wanted to enter on behalf of the defunct corporation. "Plea of guilty, your honor," said Smouha, a London attorney.

**STATE**

**Russian roulette game blamed for boy's death**

LOS OSOS, Calif. (AP) — A judge ordered a family to keep three dogs quiet. The order restricting the barking of the hounds is based on a neighbor's complaint about the dogs. The Howeys, including Bruce's wife, Brigitte, and stepson, David Smith, have lived in their home for 12 years and always with three dogs. The hounds are between 11/2 to 3 years old and are not noisier than other canines, they said.

**EAT**

**Treat yourself right by limiting alcohol intake**

By Renee Sapp
Special to the Register

Win, beer and other for­mented beverages have given pleasure to people for more than 5,000 years, especially during celebrations. For not quite so long, folks have been resolving to jump on the shape-up bandwagon after each New Year's celebration. It doesn't take long to real­ize that consuming several beers, several times a week, results in a beer belly. But if you truly want to resolve good health for the new year, in addition to shedding those extra pounds, moderation of alcohol intake is one key to success.

From the instant that al­cohol enters the body, it is demanding and disruptive. It quickly proceeds to the liver in order to be broken down. If one or two drinks has al­ready been consumed and the quantity of alcohol is great, the alcohol molecules will circulate around the body repeatedly until they can be broken down. It is easily varied, fasting as little as one day can decrease the rate of breakdown by 50%. See NUTRITION, page 6.

**FOOD & NUTRITION**

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State now requires helmets

Motorcycle riders say law violates rights, but CHP says it saves lives

By Geoff Seratti

The words "Happy New Year" do not apply to motorcycle riders in California. A mandatory helmet law went into effect Jan. 1, impacting all riders in the state. The law requires all motorcycle, moped and scooter riders and their passengers to wear a helmet or risk a fine of up to $100 for the first offense.

Usually, the California Highway Patrol has a 90-day grace period for new laws to go into effect and will only issue warnings. This time, however, in an effort to reduce deaths and injuries, the CHP started issuing citations Jan. 1.

CHP 1990 statistics showed that nearly 650,000 motorcycles were registered in California with more than 800,000 people licensed to drive them. More than 560 riders were killed in accidents last year, and more than 18,000 were injured. Of those injured or killed, more than 70 percent weren't wearing helmets.

"CHP received a report from the "Two Wheels" Harley Davidson shop in San Luis Obispo that helmet sales have increased since the law went into effect, "but 99 and nine-tenths of the people don't like having to buy a helmet."

"He thinks the law shouldn't impose on a person's freedom of choice. "Isn't it an infringement on your constitutional rights?" Bauer asked. "Should mountain climbers have to wear a helmet when on the side of a mountain?"

CHP traffic officer Steve Darcy said the helmet law will "Isn't it an infringement on your constitutional rights?"

Greg Bauer, Two Wheels Harley Davidson Shop save 150 to 200 lives in its first year based on figures from other states with helmet laws. "The chance of (surviving an accident) is a lot greater wearing a helmet anywhere you ride."

Darcy said before the law went into effect, "at least half of all motorcycle riders rode with no helmet and 80 to 90 percent of moped and scooter riders were without helmets."

"The bottom line is even though people felt they have the right not to wear a helmet, the bigger picture is not only the lives saved but the cost to the state of California in medical bills and lawsuits," Darcy said.

Tom Workman of Yamaha of San Luis Obispo has noted a slight increase in helmet sales after Jan. 1.

He said the law is a give-and-take situation. "The helmet does save lives, but it has taken away the freedom of riding."

Workman said he used to wear a helmet 95 percent of the time prior to the new law and said he will now wear a helmet all the time to avoid fines.

In California, a first-time fine for being caught without a helmet can be up to $100. A second fine within one year can be up to $250, and, for a third citation in one year, the fine can run up to $250.

Currently, 23 states have laws requiring helmets for all riders.

Peter Colenbrander, an electrical engineering senior at Cal Poly, said he wears a helmet all the time but still wants to have the freedom not to.

"At higher speeds on the freeway, a helmet probably should be worn. But if you are out on a deserted road with no one around, you should have the freedom (to not wear a helmet)," he said.

Colenbrander also said the law will help motorcycle safety but will take away the freedom of choice. "It's definitely going to save lives, but adults over 21 are responsible enough to make decisions for themselves."

ETME Junior Chris Mead puts on a helmet in compliance with the new California state law that went into effect Jan. 1. Mead said he disagrees with being told he must wear a helmet.

MUNITZ

From page 1

This election is the latest in a series of actions by state university representatives protesting Munitz's appointment to the chancellorship.

The San Jose State election, however, is the first student body vote. Other actions have been by student governments such as the Associated Students.

Student objections are based on Munitz's past ties to Maxxam Inc. Through his involvement in that company, he has been linked to the savings and loan scandal and the logging of redwood forests.

Maxxam bought Pacific Lumber Co. and reportedly accelerated logging to pay off junk bonds which financed the venture.

San Francisco State University's AS passed a "no confidence" resolution last October. CSU Stanislaus' AS called for questioning Munitz, in a 7-5 vote in November.

At the same time, a CSU Sacramento AS resolution calling for a reconsideration of Munitz's appointment was voted down, 10-2. Humboldt State University's Associated Student Council has also taken action.

In a Nov. 25 resolution, it directed its External Affairs Committee to investigate Munitz's "experience in business and educational matters," according to The Lumberjack, the campus newspaper.

This is meant as a fact-finding measure, rather than direct action, according to the article.
Teacher evaluations should be seen by students

By Carol Boosembark

“Schools teach you to imitate. If you don’t imitate what the teacher wants, you get a bad grade. If you do imitate, do it properly. There was more sophisticated of course; you were allowed to imitate the teacher in such a way as to con- vince the teacher you were not imitating, having the substance of the instruction and giving a head with the professor on your own. That got you A’s. Originality on the other hand could get you anything from A to F.”

— Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. (page 172)

Just like many other students at Cal Poly, I sat in my first class of the quarter assessing the available instructors. Of the unknown teachers, it was one of those required courses, a class totally out of my major.

Once I arrived I watched him and wondered if he was the same book that might possibly uncover his true personality. How many times have you sat in a class wondering, “Will this be a great class or a waste of time?”

After the first few minutes, Mr. Liberal Professor proved his true colors. He began the class with a 30 minute dissertation on the evils of our government and himself with a splash of Reagan-bashing.

Now, I am certainly open minded and enjoy the opinion of other professors. I could see that he and I

would not have the same political view. What happens when you bring the two together? Then you get one of those classes that were supposed to imitate the course work, the authority, and grading.

Then I had a brilliant thought. Whatever happened to last quarter’s teacher evaluation? The students from last quarter could offer some advice. At the very least, those evaluations would give us some idea about the course work, the professor, and grading.

Although students are allowed to critique professors, once those evaluations are turned in, students are not supposed to see them again.

I was asked to review some evaluations and my simple request was denied all over campus.

Each school informed me of the routine process for evaluations. Each semester evaluation form was calculated and a summary distributed to the individual departments to be distributed to the instructor. A copy of the summary was also placed in the faculty’s personnel file. However, the handwritten comments were given directly to the professor, for his own personal enjoyment.

None of these evaluations are available to students.

It seems a bit odd, that students are allowed to evaluate their teacher, yet not allowed to see the evaluations. Why?

We are paying more and more for our education each year and having the right to comment on the education we receive in well deserved. But refusing students access to the data generated from the evaluationsPRER gives more to the instructor. Why shouldn’t we be able to do this? After all we are the students, aren’t we?

Carol Boosembark is a journalism senior. This is her first piece reporting for Mustang Daily.
Leap to unleaded has owners of old cars adjusting
Switch should be smooth, says oil company official

By Dan Shargel
Staff Writer

The recent banning of leaded gasoline in California shouldn't leave old cars thirsty for regular, says a representative of a major oil company.

Those older cars have already been virtually without leaded gasoline for at least a year, said Karl Wickbom, Chevron U.S.A.'s marketing manager for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

He said Wednesday that because lead has been gradually eliminated from gasoline for about 15 years, the regular leaded gas sold last year contained practically no lead anyway.

So any car that was running with regular last year could run on unleaded now and "should have no problems whatsoever," he said.

But not everyone is so confident.

Larry Chastain, owner of Pony Enterprises Inc., a classic car restoration shop and parts store in Arroyo Grande, said a lot of customers have been asking him about the effects of running unleaded fuel in their old cars.

Although he's heard no complaints so far about unleaded gas, he said, "People aren't sure what to do, and they don't know what effect it's going to have on their cars."

According to Air Resources Board representative Jerry Martin, the nonmetallic additives in unleaded gasolines are adequate substitutes for lead.

Martin serves as public information officer for the agency which, along with the federal government, banned leaded fuel in California.

The Air Resources Board enacted the phaseout of leaded gasoline, Martin said, because of "obvious" health effects on people, especially children, and because fewer cars run on it.

Chastain suggested several remedies for owners of old cars worried about unleaded gasoline. Because the lead in gasoline is what lubricated valve seats, "You can set them up for unleaded fuel by putting hard valve seats in." That would cost $600, he said.

A cheaper solution would be to pour a three-dollar bottle of lead substitute into the tank when filling it up.

Or old-car owners can do what Chastain, owner of two old cars himself, said he is doing. "I'm not personally too worried about it," Chastain said. "I'm just going to try it (unleaded gas) and see what happens."
Psychology professor opens seminar series

By Julia Greenberg
Staff Writer

Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the first Women's Studies Lunch Time Seminar of 1992 titled "The Psychology of Women: A Critique of the Discipline."

Margaret Berrio, associate professor of psychology and human development, will speak at the Monday, Jan. 18, seminar.

"This is the first school year we've been able to set up these seminars," said Margaret Camuso, Academic Senate coordinator. "It's an effort to bring attention to the Women's Studies minor, now in its second year here at Cal Poly."

Camuso adds that the seminars are intended to help create a sense of community among college women.

For this first program, Berrio will discuss the evolution of women's psychology and how a feminist approach has led to new perspectives in the field.

Berrio said psychology has long suffered from androcentrism, the dominance of male interests.

She added that androcentrism biases research and puts women in a more subordinate position when seeking therapy. "Women have long been excluded from psychological studies, and it has added to a gender-biased society," Berrio said.

"It was long thought that it was more important to understand the minds of future presidents, male presidents, than the minds of women who would become their wives. Some innovative feminist approaches are much more egalitarian."

Berrio's presentation begins at noon on Monday in staff dining room B.

The next seminar, entitled "Getting into the Conversation: Women's Studies in American Higher Education," will be given by Jean O'Barr, the director of Political Science and Women's Studies at Duke University. This second lunchtime seminar of the year will take place on Feb. 3.

NUTRITION

From page 2

50 percent. This would lead to twice as much time necessary for your body to eliminate the alcohol and perhaps contribute to an intensified hangover.

Along with demanding the body's resources, alcohol also interferes with normal absorption of nutrients that the body needs.

After a couple of drinks, the stomach overproduces inflammatory agents and acid, contributing to a sore gut and ulcers.

The intestinal cells fail to absorb the daily required thiamin, folacin, vitamin B-12 and vitamin D, while at the same time, the kidney excretes valuable quantities of manganese, calcium, potassium and zinc.

In this process, vast amounts of water are lost that will surely need to be replaced the next day when your headache comes.

When you drink more than just a few, the effects are increased and are often times more severe such as the loss of voluntary control, and long-term damage to the liver and brain.

If you stick to your New Year's resolution to treat yourself right, a few drinks will be more than enough. And you won't need to buy the abdomen either.
Finished race tries a restart
SLO Criterium planned to be part of city's Bike Week

By Laura Carrillo
Senior Staff Writer
and Neil Pascale
Editorial Staff

The San Luis Obispo Criterium is trying to get its wheels going again.

The Criterium, flattened last year after failing to get a major sponsor, is scheduled to be part of a city-sponsored Bike Week, said Craig Anderson, coordinator of the city's Bike Advisory Committee.

Bike Week, which is endorsed by the committee, is tentatively set for May 21-27, Anderson said.

A Bike Advisory Committee, headed by Anderson, will meet Sunday in the San Luis Obispo Library at 5 p.m. in conference room A. The public is encouraged to come.

The '92 San Luis Obispo Criterium, tentatively scheduled for May 24, will be one of several activities during Bike Week.

"The Criterium has been a very successful event that has drawn up to 25,000 spectators, and I would like to see it continue," Anderson said.

"I have been approached by people who say that I'll do anything to try and keep it going," Anderson said.

The Criterium will have a grand start in front of the Cal Poly Physical Activities Center and a finish in front of the Wheeler Center.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

From page 1

"We’ve got about 48 percent unemployment right now," Putton said. "That’s the highest it’s ever been."

He noted that local anti-growth measures and laborious building approval procedures, combined with a general decline in the local economy, have put more than 200 of his union members out of work.

Despite the rise in the number of recipients of unemployment insurance, a trend he expects to continue, Placak said San Luis Obispo county is considerably better off than much of the rest of the state, due to its unique economic structure.

"The buffer we have against the worst of this," he said, "is the unique economic structure."

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Also educate riders about the surrounding environment and bicycle rides to wineries, Anderson said.

"The last Criterium I rode in was in '99, and Tony Bell was the mayor, it just seemed like to see them sponsor it again."