Students investigated for bogus votes

By Deanna Wulf
Staff Writer

Three Cal Poly students are under investigation for voting more than once in the fall IRA athletics referendum. If found guilty, they face stiff penalties.

"Under the California Elections Code, voting twice is a felony and is subject to a maximum jail sentence of five years and a minimum jail sentence of 16 months," said Mike Kennedy, Cal Poly Public Safety investigator. "However, the school would probably punish them by putting them on probation or (expelling) them from the university."

Kennedy would not release the names of the suspects. One suspect's innocence has already been confirmed.

The election committee alerted us to her possible felony because she signed in twice," Kennedy said. "But she only signed in twice, she didn't vote twice."

When she signed in, she didn't have her fall validation sticker on her ID, so she went to the administration building and got it. On her return, she signed in again, but she only voted once.

The other students are still being investigated.

One will be interviewed by Kennedy tomorrow, while the other has yet to contact us.

Financial aid workshop offers guidance

By Rick Shandley
Staff Writer

Students worried about possible increases in tuition may be interested in a financial aid workshop to be held Thursday, Jan. 30.

The workshop, conducted by the Financial Aid Office, is designed to guide students through the financial aid application process and provide answers to their questions.

The workshop comes at an ideal time as the potential for a 40 percent tuition increase becomes more and more likely.

Financial Aid counselor Dave Ciano hoped to see the amount of available money increase should the fee hike occur, but he could make no guarantees.

"It's not quite a done deal, but it doesn't look good, does it?" he said, referring to the haggling over tuition.

If tuition did increase, Ciano said, the grants would have the best chance of expanding next year: the State University, Cal and Pell grants.

The money available for these grants typically rises as tuition rises.

"It ought to rise at the highest need levels," Ciano said. Middle or lower cases of need may or may not be able to receive more money.

As an example, Ciano said, the highest need level for the Pell Grant could increase from $2,130 to between $3,700 and $4,250.

Increases in other forms of financial aid, such as scholarships and loans, are less predictable since those forms are not directly affected by tuition increases.

"Hopefully, we would have more donors to be able to offer more scholarships, but you can't know if that would happen," he said.

For people who may be considering financial aid for the first time, or for those who already have it, the workshop will be held in the University Union 220 today at 3 p.m.

See AID, page 8

Kaaiai pleads not guilty to attempted murder

Ex-volleyball star scheduled for trial on felony charge

By John Hubbell
Staff Writer

Kim Kaaiai smiled all the way through her arraignment on Tuesday as she pleaded not guilty of attempting to murder her former Cal Poly volleyball teammate.

Kaaiai, who remains in custody in San Luis Obispo County Jail, was scheduled by Judge Christopher G. Money to stand trial on the single felony count March 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Money also ordered official court papers to be filed on Feb. 24, preceding a March 5 pretrial conference.

A 22-year-old business senior and star volleyball player, Kaaiai stands accused of attempting to kill her former friend and teammate Michelle Hansen, a physical education senior.

The alleged incident occurred at Hansen's Foothill Boulevard apartment on Dec. 18.

Witnesses testified in a preliminary hearing two weeks ago that the pair had a heated relationship often dotted with threats and physical confrontations.

At the brief afternoon court appearance Tuesday, defense attorney Ilan Funke-Bilu moved to have Kaaiai's $200,000 bail reduced.

Money said the request will await a probation department report and will be addressed at a Feb. 28 hearing.

Cost of student unions could rise

Board of Trustees, student group ask state to remove limit on fees

By Carol Boosembark
Staff Writer

Students across the state may be asked to pay up if they want to keep their student unions open.

In a recent decision, the CSU Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the California State Student Association, is asking the Legislature to remove the $40 student union fee limit charged for the operation of student unions.

California Education Code Section 80004 states, "A building and operating fee not to exceed $40 per student per academic year" can be established for student unions.

However, a later section overrides this section, allowing students to be charged more if there is a bond used to construct or upgrade the student union.

Monthly, students must pass a referendum to allow for the bond to be purchased. Students at Sacramento State were paying $46 in student union fees per year. Faced with a $6 reduction in the fee, a majority of students opted to pass a referendum to help fund their student union instead of closing the building.

Cal Poly students pay $75 in student union fees per academic year, said Sharon Graison, assistant to the ASI Executive Director. The funds raised are used to pay off state bonds to finance the University Union.

Cal Poly's bond is expected to mature in 2007. At that time, if the legislation remains as is, student union fees at Cal Poly would be reduced to $40 per year.

CSISA will be in Sacramento lobbying to remove the cap on student union fees during the Legislative Conference on Feb. 22 through Feb. 24.

"At this point, our position is to remove the fee cap so that when the bond matures, the fee will not drop back down," said Jeff Chang, the legislative director for CSISA.

ASI President David Kapic is the campus representative for CSISA. However, for the last few years, Cal Poly has not participated in CSISA.

"For Cal Poly, CSISA has not proven their value... they don't invest enough to get quality lobbyists," Kapic said.

As for CSISA's decision on the budget, see U.U., page 6
Libya is urged to turn in bombing suspects

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The 15-member Security Council today unanimously urged Libya to surrender two Libyan agents indicted by the United States and Britain in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Western diplomats said they knew of no other case in which the Security Council has taken sides in a legal dispute among member states.

Libya told the council the indictments were baseless and the matter should be put to international arbitration.

Inoculated soybeans produce higher yields

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soybean crops inoculated with a recently patented super bacterium have yields 5 percent to 7 percent more than would otherwise have been produced, according to Agriculture Department researchers.

"This increased yield could bring farmers an additional $800 million income annually," says a report in the January issue of USDA's Agricultural Research magazine, which noted that soybeans produce more income than any other U.S. crop.

Firm stops work on driverless railway cars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — County mass transit officials ordered a Japanese firm to stop work on a $128 million contract to build driverless railway cars because of widespread criticism over jobs and technology.

The executive director of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission ordered Sumitomo Corp. of America to stop its work on the Metro Green Line railway.

The order Saturday by Neil Peterson also See STATE, page 6
Speaker urges faculty diversity in science

By Julie Pacheco
Staff Writer

Creating a diverse faculty at college campuses is the dream of Eugene H. Cota-Robles, a retired professor from UC Santa Cruz who spoke Friday at Cal Poly.

His lecture focused on the strategies for increasing the participation of minorities and women in science and engineering.

The talk, held in Chumash Auditorium, was part of the Focus on Diversity Lecture Series sponsored by Cal Poly's Affirmative Action Office.

"The purpose of these lectures is to focus on the unmet needs for the increasing number of underrepresented groups in the community," said Anna McDonald, Cal Poly's affirmative action director.

Cota-Robles said his dream of a diverse faculty cannot be achieved until improvements are made in the educational system. A Mexican-American, Cota-Robles began at a time when the field was blooming. "My career as a microbiologist began at a time when the field was blooming," Cota-Robles pointed out, however, that things are not as easy today.

"We (minorities) don't want to have to depend on good luck to get through school," he said. "In science education, there are four basic changes needed to improve the educational system."

Cota-Robles suggested empowering and challenging students to develop their talents and interests in the scientific field. He also recommended challenging teachers to increase their professional understanding of science. Another change needed, according to Cota-Robles, is to tap into the community by educating parents.

The most difficult change he suggested, though, was to improve the quality of science at the university undergraduate level. "We must find ways to make mathematics and science a pump and not a filter," Cota-Robles said. "That is a pump through the system and not as a filter that keeps them out."

In order to achieve these goals, Cota-Robles is active in associations such as Mathematics Engineering and Science Advancement.

MESA is designed to recognize students who show interest in science at an early age. These students are then put into special programs to help develop their interests.

"The problem with MESA is that it is too focused on students, and very little spills into the schools," Cota-Robles said. At the Lawrence Hall of Science, Cota-Robles said, "We must recognize students who show interest in science at an early age. These students are then put into special programs to help develop their interests."

"Teachers really need to make the effort to improve the analysis of teaching. This will in turn improve undergraduate education."

Eugene Cota-Robles retired professor

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Eugene Cota-Robles retired professor
I think that the main problem with the economy today is that Americans by and large are pretty lazy. The whole work ethic through the years has gone down as the standard of living, has gone up, and the priorities are in a different place. They're not in the work as they have been in years past. It used to be that work was the main emphasis, now it is more important to spend time with the family, go out with the guys, to go to the football game or whatever. In other countries, they are working a lot harder. The emphasis in America has switched off the work ethic to a "more time for me" attitude.

I don't think the work force is lazy — there is a good portion of our society that is lazy, but people out there that are working are really doing the best that they can. Look at our society related to the Japanese. The Japanese, after World War II, basically had a goal. They had to save their country, so their entire society is based around the philosophy to become number one. And our country has been blessed with so many commodities that we don't have to worry about being number one. It's just natural. It's not something we have to work for every single day.

I think that American workers are lazy to an extent, but we have a different culture than the Japanese. The Japanese are centered on work, work, work, while our culture has a lot more leisure-type recreational activities. While Japanese, like Americans, work 45 hours per week on the average, there is a good portion of our society that is lazy, but people out there that are working are really doing the best that they can. And I think the American worker, for the most part, is doing the best that he can. The main problem with the American worker is that he wants to have a lot more leisure time than he's actually allowed to have. But I think that the main problem with the American worker is that he doesn't feel he has to work as hard as he used to. He is more interested in leisure time than he used to be.

All their quality is in the high schools and primary education. Our higher education has a lot of potential. I guess it's just a matter of applying it.

We need to work hard, we need to save money for the future, and we need to work for every single day.
California State University guidelines require student evaluations of faculty in two classes per year, per professor. Recent attention pointed at student evaluations of faculty has sparked interest in the evaluation process and has caused students to question whether their opinions really matter at all. The following is an attempt to examine Cal Poly's evaluation process.

The only state-mandated requirement is that the forms have a section for quantitative analysis. This allows for a numerical data and comments are to be maintained in individual professors' files, Pieper said. However, if a student wants to comment on or complain about a professor outside of the process described above, that comment must be signed by the student. It will also be kept in the personnel files, Pieper said.

The student evaluations are not available to the student body. "It is a confidential record," Pieper said. There is no official publication of results.

Tenured professors are reviewed every five years, meaning the evaluations accumulate in the personnel files, Pieper said. The performances of tenured professors are reviewed on a yearly basis, she said.

When performance is reviewed, student evaluation of faculty is considered along with peer evaluation, said Robert Koob, vice president for Academic Affairs.

"We think the student evaluation is not the sole indicator of quality of teaching, but we think it is a relatively uniform one," Koob said. "It provides sort of a campus-wide comparison of teachers."

Each professor's performance is reviewed by a committee of the professor's peers, the head of the department and the school dean. The evaluation is then forwarded to Koob.

Koob reviews the file and then sends it to President Warren Baker along with a recommendation. Non-tenured professors, for example, receive a recommendation regarding contract renewal or promotion.

When analyzing the results of student evaluations of faculty, Sidney Ribeau, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, says he looks for patterns.

When results show "a pattern of high evaluations, high peer review and excellent (ratings) in teaching materials," Ribeau said, "we probably have a very excellent instructor."

"If a profile indicates consistent weakness perceived by students, then that is something that has to be accounted for," he said.

A stack of bad evaluations for a part-time person would weigh very heavily on whether that person would be rehired, Ribeau said.

In the case of a tenured person with poor reviews, you do not have much power, he said.

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ASI

From page 2

students of the School of Science and Mathematics as an elected
director of the ASI board of direc-
tors. My involvements within
ASI have enabled me to hone in-
valuable leadership skills, ex-
press my input regarding cam-
pus issues and work with some of
the most dedicated students on
this campus.

As a fourth-year graduating
senior and as a student who has
been involved in numerous
programs that Cal Poly offers, I
have found effective communica-
tion and a dedication to one's
personal aspirations to be the
most difficult talents to cultivate.
Extracurricular activities offer
a number of environments where
you can exercise and nurture the
development of these necessary
skills, along with the chance to
voice your concerns and opinions
regarding campus issues.

My freshman year during a
residence hall government ban-
quet, the keynote speaker ad-
vised, "Don't let school get in the
way of your education." In other
words, there are skills which can
only be learned and developed
through involvement and ac-
tivities outside the classroom.
We are extremely fortunate that our
university has such a diversity of
programs from which to choose.

The ASI board of directors
and executive staff are composed
of your peers who have volun-
teered to dedicate their time
inward representing and work-
ning for their fellow students. In
fact, student initiative coupled
with an ASI commission task
force was the driving force be-
hind the reopening of Poly
Canyon and last year's increase
in reserve room hours.

Keep the communication ef-
fecive. Get involved.

STATE

From page 2

applied to a contract for com-
puterized train controls.

"The public comments
received since last month's
decision deserve to be reviewed
and the commissioners want to
discuss this at the next meeting," said Chairman Ray Grabinski.

On Wednesday, the commis-
sion will reconsider whether
driverless cars are appropriate
for the 23-mi line from El
Segundo to Norwalk. The line in-
cludes a spur to Los Angeles
International Airport.

U.U.

From page 1

student union fees, Kaplan agrees
the legislation needs to be
changed.

"In 2007, if it was $40, it
would be economically
unfeasible," Kaplan said.

Additionally, Kaplan plans to
send someone to CSSA's
conference in February.

Some ASI officers feel the cap
on student union fees should be
removed.

"Removing the cap" gives more
freedom for the schools to
develop more programs," said
Gabe Joyet, ASI President
Executive Assistant.

But others say each university
should decide for itself.

"I think it should be up to
each campus," Reeves said.
"Each school is different."
Interested in Med School?
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Fly roundtrip on Continental for less than $100 each way.

You get more than great travel savings. You also save money on everything from clothing to long distance phone calls. All for a $55 annual fee.

Depending on where you fly, each school year travel certifi- cate is good for $129 or $89 roundtrip—and each summer travel certificate is good for $49 or $199 roundtrips. Savings that upgrade your lifestyle.

As a student Cardmember you get more than great travel sav- ings. You also save money on everything from clothing to long distance phone calls. All for a $55 annual fee.

Obviously, savings like these say a lot about the Card. And having the Card will say a lot about you. For one thing it says you have a handle on what you spend, so you don't have to carry over a balance. It also says you're smart enough not to pay interest charges that can really add up. So take a few minutes now to call (have your bank address and account number ready, and apply for the American Express Card. With all that the Card offers you, not even the sky is the limit.

THE CARD
THE AMERICAN EXPRESS® CARD.

Get going, call 1-800-967-AMEX.