Poly fire department faces closure

Threatened budget cuts may force university to contract city service

By Julie Bacheco
Staff Writer

Beginning next fall, Cal Poly's fire department may be terminated and fire protection services contracted out to the City of San Luis Obispo.

"In order to come up with the money Business Affairs asked to, we had to look at some pretty drastic measures," Levens said.

The department heads were asked to look into outside contracts for services that would cut costs, Levens said. About the only area where the department heads saw the potential for contractual services was in the fire area.

"Contracting for fire protection outside Cal Poly is not an action we would like to take," Levens said. "The budget situation demands that we make some sort of cutbacks so we are looking at all the options."

Levens said no deals have been struck with the city for fire services at this time. "The details of any such arrangement would have to be ironed out before we eliminate the fire section," Levens said.

San Luis Obispo Fire Chief Bob Neuman confirmed that the city had engaged in talks with Cal Poly about fire protection but refused to comment any further. Neuman also refused to say how much the University would have to pay to contract with San Luis Obispo for fire protection.

The university currently budgets about $337,000 per year to maintain the fire department as it is now, said Cal Poly Fire Chief John Paulsen, who added that he has submitted plans to the administration to save the fire department.

"I have presented the administration with several alternatives to contracting with the city," Paulsen said. "One suggestion was to eliminate a staff position and use more student assistance."

According to Joe Boz, director of Public Safety, if the university decides to contract out for fire services, staff members will be in jeopardy of losing their jobs. Paulsen said there are currently eight staff members with the fire department.

Levens said he hopes the university doesn't have to contract with the city, but because of the budget situation, it may have to.

"It may well be that we're not able to reach resolution, but contracting with the city is a possibility being discussed at this time," Levens said. "We have a lot of issues to resolve. Obviously the health and safety of this campus is of paramount importance before we make a decision of this nature."

Without a fire department, Paulsen said, response times to emergencies on campus may increase.

"Response times may take a little longer if the university decides to contract with the city for fire protection," Paulsen said. "The people contracted for fire services will not be as familiar with this campus as our staff is."

The fire department at Cal Poly takes about 500 calls each year for all types of emergencies and on and off campus, Riser said.

"The fire department responds to medical emergencies on campus as well as helps out with local fires in the community," Riser said. "Approximately 300 of the 500 calls the fire department receives are for medical calls alone."

Riser would not confirm that any final decision has been made concerning the future existence of the fire department.

"We honestly don't know what is going to happen on the budget front," Koob said.

The Senate's executive committee questioned the recommendations in a report, "The Wasteful Management of Cal Poly," prepared by the Academic Senate's academic review committee.

After the Academic Senate's academic review committee initially presented its report on Thursday, July 14, some members of the departments directly involved with the Senate's recommendations went questioning the reasons for merging departments.

"I have no problem with merging departments as long as the students and the administration is saved money," said Terry L. Smith, soil science and plant nutrition department head. "But I'm not sure this recommendation is doing just that."

Some of the report's controversial findings included recommendations for the elimination of the agricultural engineering technology program and the merger of several other programs on campus. The Academic Senate, but all the findings were not "impliedly endorsed."

The Senate's executive committee vetoed unanimously at its meeting last Thursday to accept the report "as is," but thought it was beyond the committee's bounds to fully support all the findings.

The jobs of fire station employees like Steve Becher are threatened by budget cuts.

The academic review committee recommended University Administration take some actions in the event the university receives a decision on the fate of the fire department.

"The programs this department provides include training for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), blood pressure monitoring and safety training for beginning aquatic classes," he said.

Paulsen said he is concerned about the fate of the fire department, but said he understands the position the administration is in.

"It's unfortunate that it has come down to this," Paulsen said. "If there is anyone we should blame, it should be our Legislature or whoever is controlling the purse strings."

Director of ASI files libel lawsuit against lecturer

By Katherine Gill
Senior Staff Writer

ASI Executive Director Roger Conway has filed a $1 million lawsuit against Cal Poly lecturer Gill Wilson as a result of an article she authored this year in The Poly Review.

Conway is suing Wilson, a part-time chemistry teacher, for libel, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress and invasion of privacy.

In the lawsuit filed on June 30, Conway alleges that Wilson made several false statements in an article she wrote for the Feb. 19 edition of The Poly Review, a student newspaper.

The article, "The Wasteful Management of ASI," accused Conway of dishonesty, mismanagement, violations of statutory and contractual obligations, misuse of corporate funds and violations of employee rights.

The lawsuit also alleges that in February, Wilson circulated a flyer and a petition calling for a student body vote on the renewal of Conway's job contract.

Conway claims in the suit that Wilson has been harassing him since 1986 by writing newspaper articles, distributing flyers and making false and malicious statements about him to his employers and university officials.

Conway also claims that Wilson's harassment has diminished his professional reputation and has caused him to suffer emotional and physical distress.

The Cal Poly fire station has been a part of the Public Safety department since 1946.

"It started as a volunteer fire department," said Cal Poly Police Chief John Paulsen. "But it was a local fire agency that could respond to this area, so the school started one of its own."

Cal Poly, UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz are the only three universities in the state that have fire departments.

Levens said he anticipates a final decision on the fate of the fire department will be made within 60 days.

Faculty committee shies away from report findings

By Francine Stewart
Staff Writer

The academic review committee report that recommended the elimination of the agricultural engineering technology program and the merger of several other programs on campus was "acknowledged" by Academic Senate, but all the findings were not "impliedly endorsed."

The Senate's executive committee unanimously voted at its meeting last Thursday to accept the report in order to help it "guess" and draft the report. He suggested the Senate's six-week study of the report "as is," but thought it was beyond the committee's bounds to fully support all the findings.

The Senate's executive committee vetoed unanimously at its meeting last Thursday to accept the report "as is," but thought it was beyond the committee's bounds to fully support all the findings.

Some of the report's controversial findings included recommendations for the elimination of the agricultural engineering technology program and the merger of many departments that had less than nine faculty members.

Senator member Craig Russell said the committee's six-week research timetable was too short to request material, evaluate the material, consult with faculty and draft the report. He suggested to "accept the report as a report" and nothing more.

The report was sent to the administration, who requested the report in order to help it plan for likely future budget cuts.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Robert Koob said there is no way that he will "immediately or blindly" accept any recommendations from the committee.

The report will be used by the administration so it can "guess" and do the best it can in the event the university receives a decision on the fate of the fire department.

Department heads question report

Reasons for merging small departments seem unclear

By Jackie Jones
Staff Writer

After the Academic Senate's academic review committee initially presented its report on Thursday, July 14, some members of the departments directly involved with the Senate's recommendations went wondering the reasons for merging departments.

"I have no problem with merging departments as long as the students and the administration is saved money," said Terry L. Smith, soil science and plant nutrition department head. "But I'm not sure this recommendation is doing just that."

Some added that to merge departments for the sake of

Beer busting...
San Luis Obispo police officers are going undercover to crack down on the illegal use and sale of alcohol at local parties.
By Jim Heilmann
Staff Writer

Art & Entertainment...
The Mozart Festival brings two weeks of melody to county concert halls beginning Monday.

Opinion...
Do rats on a sinking ship have it better than we do? A Cal Poly graduate student gives his opinion on the budget crisis.
By Tim Stover
Staff Writer

Page 3
Page 4
Page 5
China prosecutes officers for citizen's rights violations

BEIJING (AP) — China said Wednesday that it has increased prosecutions of police officers for illegal detention, torture and other violations of citizens' rights. The official newspaper China Daily said 9,492 such cases were registered with courts in the first half of the year, up 17 percent from the corresponding period last year.

The newspaper quoted Wang Wenyuan, a deputy prosecutor, as saying prosecutors would focus on cases of illegal detention, death and injury caused by torture, official dereliction of duty; and police bending the law for personal gain.

The report did not mention treatment of political prisoners, which has brought China harsh international condemnation. Many people jailed for taking part in the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement were held without formal charge for far longer than allowed by Chinese law and families were not notified as required by law.

Anta Watch, a human rights group based in New York, claimed this spring that torture and abuse were rampant in Chinese prisons. The human rights group Amnesty International reported in June that thousands of people arrested in the crackdown on the democracy movement still were being detained.

Cartel leader escapes from prison during gun battle

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar and his lieutenants overpowered officials seeking to transfer him to a military jail and apparently escaped Wednesday after a battle that left at least two dead.

President Cesar Gaviria that Escobar could not be found in a tunnel where he was believed to have holed up with other prisoners on Wednesday after an army raid on the prison outside Medellin.

On Tuesday night, 400 soldiers accompanied by government officials came to the prison to seize Escobar and 14 lieutenants and transfer them to a military jail. The cartel leader took three senior officials hostage, but army commandos at dawn freed the captives.

President Cesar Gaviria ordered the army to move Escobar to a military prison this week because of indications he was ordering the murder of rivals for his multi-billion-dollar cocaine operation from inside prison.

Bush campaign leadership switch to Baker still expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — The long wait for Secretary of State James A. Baker to take over as President George Bush's sputtering campaign dragged on Wednesday.

A White House official worried that the summertime political drama would follow an appearance of disaster.

Bush and Baker insisted no decision had been made. There was no lessening of the expectation that Baker would make the switch.

"I'm delighted that Jim Baker's coming back," said South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell, a national direc­tor of Bush's campaign and the president's Southern chairman. Asked if he were certain about Baker's inten­tions, Campbell confidently said, "Baker will be back." Bush brushed aside questions about Baker at a photo session before a Cabinet meeting, saying, "A lot of crazy rumors floating around, aren't there?" He said the press was in "that feeling frenzy that you love.

Asked about rumors that Vice President Dan Quayle would be dumped from the ticket, Bush said Quayle's status was "very certain."

Judge dismisses murder charge against Kevorkian

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — The second dismissal of murder charges against Dr. Jack Kevorkian put on hold his lawsuit in the Legislature's lap, with foes and backers of the practice urging quick action.

Oakland County Circuit Judge David Breck on Tuesday threw out charges against the suicide machine in­ventor because Michigan has no law against helping someone commit suicide. He also said prosecutors failed to show Kevorkian tricked the devices that two women used to die.

He suggested that Kevorkian stop counseling chroni­cally ill patients for now. "If not, I fear, hurts your cause, because you may force the Legislature to take messy, and perhaps tragically, action," he wrote.

The retired Royal Oak pathologist said he has no plans to assist another suicide, but "I would if the case were extreme.

Gov. John Engler wants the Legislature to restrict assisted suicide "before Michigan gets known as the suicide state," spokesman John Truscott said Tuesday.

California voters will decide this fall whether the ter­ritorial initiative that would give the right to seek a doctor's help to die. Proposition 161 would let doctors help mentally competent adults at the final stages of a terminal dis­ease kill themselves.

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STATE
State proposes pay-back plan to ease nervous banks

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Prodded by nervous bankers, Controller Gray Davis on Wednesday proposed a pay­back plan for $90 million in state IOUs as California's budget crisis stretched into its 22nd day.

The tax hikes were at least slight movement toward a budget agreement: budget rival Gov. Pete Wil­son and Assembly Speaker Willie Brown appeared to shut the door — and a time out for the first time in a month.

Wilson announced the redemption schedule as the amount of IOUs issued by the cash-strapped state neared the $1.4 billion level. In a proposal that needs approval from the state's Pooled Money Investment Board, up to $202 million worth of IOUs, or registered warrants, would be redeemed between Aug. 3 and Aug. 6. The initial IOUs redeemed would be those issued during the first three weeks of July.

Since the new fiscal year began on July 1, the state has used IOUs instead of cash to cover its bills as law­makers and Wilson have struggle for agreement on a $46 billion spending plan.

Wilson and Brown, both cheerful, greeted reporters outside the governor's office offering an hour-long meeting in which they said progress was being toward a budget compromise.

L.A. decides test sites for federal aid program

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two riot-torn sections of the city could be test sites for a $19 million federal program to fight crime and create jobs, city officials said.

Pending final approval by the U.S. Justice Depart­ment, the money would be used in a nine-square-mile zone in the Pico Union area, the City Council decided Tuesday.

A task force of federal and local officials and com­munity-based groups will coordinate the program, called Operation Weed and Seed.

The two-prong effort is intended to "weed out" gangs and drug dealers and "seed" areas with jobs and social programs.

Services that may be funded in the areas include after-school programs, drug treatment and prevention, job training, public service jobs and expanded Head Start programs, said Wendy Greuel, an aide to Mayor Tom Bradley.

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Where the wild things are

Student's idea spawns formation of cat care group

By John Cristofano

They're looking for a few good men and women willing to care for a wild and overabundant population on campus. No, they're not recruiting resident advisers for the residence halls. They're simply looking for volunteers to help care for stray cats on campus.

Quindimil, whose senior project will focus on the reduction of campus cat population to a manageable size, initially got the idea for the group when he took a cat-trapping job with Public Safety.

"I realized after a while that I could do a lot more than take the cats to be put to sleep," Quindimil said. After researching the subject, Quindimil realized that to control the population indefinitely would be to continually catch and neuter the animals, mark them and place them where he had found them.

Quindimil organized a small meeting with campus officials to discuss the issue. This meeting included Ellen Nortemann, a student services coordinator who had been feeding campus cats on her own for two years.

"We realized at the first meeting that the project was going to be so large that we'd need campus-wide support," Nortemann said. Quindimil said the group, which now includes about 25 faculty and staff members, is currently focusing its attention on building a kennel behind the campus veterinary clinic.

"Once the kennel is completed, we can focus our efforts on the cat adoption program we're starting," Quindimil said.

Quindimil said that each kitten caught will be cleaned, spayed or neutered and housed in the kennel. "Then anyone interested in adopting a kitten from the program will get all the vaccinations and have the animal spayed or neutered for $6," Quindimil said.

This is about $120 less than going through a veterinarian, he said.

Quindimil said the long-term goal of the group is to keep the program functioning beyond his stay at Cal Poly.

Nortemann added that another long-term goal is to keep the cat population healthy and under control.

"We just want to make sure that they are well-fed and that no one will bother them," Nortemann said.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3, 12 to 1 p.m., in the Mathematics and Home Economics building, room 220.

Police go undercover to bust alcohol parties

By Julie Pacheco

The San Luis Obispo Police Department plans to use any resource available to shake down parties where minors are drinking alcohol.

"We just want to make sure that they are well-fed and that no one will bother them," Nortemann said.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3, 12 to 1 p.m., in the Mathematics and Home Economics building, room 220.

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"We were ticketed last week for charging people $2 to drink beer at my house," Preston said. "We had a Hawaiian theme for the party and there were two kegs of beer."

An undercover policeman wearing a Hawaiian print shirt paid $2 fee with a $20 bill, Preston said.

"A citizen brought the flyer from the program," Gardner said. "We have this type of information and have the officers available, we will in an undercover role.

The police department is also finding out about a party through phone calls or flyers, Gardner said. He added that the department shuts down at least one party a year by using an undercover police officer.

"I'm sure there are many more parties than this department is aware of," Gardner said. "But if we find out about a party ahead of time, we will show up to bust it."

Preston said his citation for selling alcohol with a permit would not deter him from hosting another party.

"I would have a party again," Preston said. "It's stupid because the cops have nothing better to do than shut down parties. At least eight to 10 cops showed up to bust us."
Corporations occasionally transgress normal business practice and in doing so often forfeit their special legal status. This is commonly called "piercing the corporate veil." Simply put, if a business wants to be treated like a corporation, it has to act like one before the law and its peers.

Walking a bike before the law and its peers.

Ah yes, the glory that will be Cal Poly. And to all of this I say a qualified "Good!" even "Great!" America can be one of our most noble aspects as humans — to aspire to be more than we presently are. But it is the present that troubles us. For as much as a university is a collection of buildings, titles and scholars, it is ultimately nothing more than the sum of its faculties. And at the moment, most of our distinguished faculty are still in the bush league if last Tuesday's Academic Senate meeting was any indication. It's hard to think of such antics at a real university. Scholars would have too much self-respect to fall upon one another like panicked dogs. They would be overly concerned with trivial gestures like...setting an example for their students. They might even have intellectual debates as to the nature of their plight and what actions to take. But not here at Cal Poly. It's "Give me that hack now, Jim! I think I just found us another 3 percent hidden under the ag department."

As if we could cut our way through a budget crisis which, by some projections, may reach reductions of 30 percent. Even more pathetic than the faculty performance is the hindering absence of direction from the administration. Where is the leadership on this campus? Why has President Baker not sat the tenor for these debates? Why are department heads — excuse me...college deans — making unguided faculty layoffs? Why are certain faculty leaders mailing mock layoffs notices to faculty suggesting they send them to their "favorite" administrator? Is this the faculty and administration of a first rate university? Hardly. It's long past time that some of our 100 kilobuck-plus administrators got off their asses and committed an act of leadership, past time for voices of reason and compassion to take the floor. I don't want to see sheepish administrators smiling back at me with open palms from the front page of Mustang Daily. No more shell games with this department hiding under this "college" and now that one.

No more closed-session hatchet jobs.

Michael Nutile
Undeclared

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Walking a bike is not a crime.

Today while walking my bike from the doors of the U.U. to the Craft Center for some needed repairs, I was confronted for the third time by the U.C. employee-curmudgeon and ordered to "get your bike outta here!" I refused this time, and he grabbed my bike. An argument ensued and provided not only entertainment for the crowd that formed, but a mini-trial over the issue.

The Public Safety officer who eventually arrived acted as mediator, and a fair one I might add.

So the issue was settled. Walking one's bike through the U.U. in order to get to the Craft Center is an OK thing to do. So if that employee-curmudgeon power trips on you too, the only thing to say to him is "boo-hoo!"

Michael Nutile

Summer Mustang Policies

Commentaries and reporter's notebooks are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Summer Mustang. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial staff.

Letters to the editor should be typed, less than 250 words, and should include the author's name, phone number and major or occupation. Because of space limitations, shorter letters have a higher chance of being published.

The sooner we engage in constructive action, the sooner we can put this behind us.

If we want to be a university, with all the attendant rights, privileges and responsibilities, we must first act like one.

Michael Nutile

Who will frame this crisis, provide a rational means to define it and creative action to ameliorate it? Mr. President?

Clearly funds from the state will not be coming any time soon. What about research, partnerships with industry, alumni endowments or even something as trivial as putting a Laundromat on campus?

The sooner Mustang policies are implemented, the sooner we can put this behind us.
Annual festival features myriad of Mozart
Composer’s melodic magic crosses county with comprehensive schedule of concerts, lectures

By Romina Vitolis
Staff Writer

Eighteenth century composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart started writing music when he was five years old. Now in its 22nd year, the annual summer festival will be held at various locations throughout San Luis Obispo County, spanning from the Cal Poly Theatre to churches and other performance spaces. These performances are free to the public and present music in less formal settings.

The first of the 17 fringe concerts will be held at the opening ceremonies in Mission Plaza on July 31. As for a show that appeals to a younger audience, the festival will also hold an “Ear-Opener” concert. This is a special performance geared towards children and those new to classical music. For those who like orchestral music, there will be two purely orchestral concerts performed Aug. 7 and 8. In addition to the main schedule, a series of Festival Fringe concerts will be held throughout San Luis Obispo and surrounding communities. These performances are free to the public and present music in less formal settings.

The first of the 17 fringe concerts will be held at the opening ceremonies in Mission Plaza on July 31.

Afternoon performances and a good production of “Hamlet” Saturday evening in the University Union Gallerie, despite limited space and detail. From the start, the question among members of the audience was how the actors could perform in such limited space. The Gallerie is about the size of a large rectangular classroom. Include in that space a stage, 40 chairs and a cost of more than 20 people, and the area becomes very close and personal.

Unusually, “Hamlet” is set on a stage in front of a castle. This production, however, used a backdrop made of boxes, carts, bricks, and miscellaneous, cleverly assembled items sprayed with bronze and blue metallic paint.

The set was simple, but it worked. The first act opened in darkness with the performers walking through the aisles with red flashlights. The actors surrounded the audience, involved them in the scene and still used all of the space. Throughout the play, the audience could practically reach out and touch the performers. For this production, the emphasis was placed on the individual dramatic abilities of the actors and not on props or elaborate sets. When a change in the set was needed, an usher in black would quickly add or remove a table or chair between acts.

The costumes were simple — patterned clothes with bright ribbons or fur added. They were not detailed, but that did not take away from the play. Without incredible sets, costumes, and plenty of space, the actors and actresses were challenged to deliver good performances. Three noteworthy showings were given by David Nevell, Peter W. Mal- cow, and Tanya Hazelwood.

Nevell, a Cal Poly political science senior, played the part of Hamlet and did an incredible job with his facial expressions, gestures and speech. His performance made Shakespeare’s words much easier to follow. Malcow, a music graduate of Cal Poly, said. “He played at last year’s Live Oak Festival and absolutely walked away with the show.”

As for a show that appeals to a younger crowd, the festival will also hold an “Ear-Opener” concert. This is a special performance geared towards children and those new to classical music.

Cal Poly music program Craig Russell, master of ceremonies for the event, said “the object of the Ear-Opener is to get the same high-quality people as you would for an evening concert, but at the same time allow someone who’s 5 years old to sit 5 years old.”

The concert will be held Aug. 6 at the Cal Poly Theatre.

Tickets to the final orchestra concert have already sold out; Swanson said, but the performance will be broadcast onto the lawn behind the theater for those who want to come listen.

Concerts and events of the Mozart Festival will be held at various locations throughout San Luis Obispo County, spanning from the Cal Poly Theatre to churches in Cambria, Atascadero, Los Osos and Templeton.

For information about additional events, concert locations or tickets, contact the Mozart Festival offices at 543-4660.

In past years, various ensembles have performed at the Mission Plaza amphitheatre.
REACTION

From page 1
merging or just because they are smaller departments does not make sense. Smith said be wants a department size to be compared with other similar programs on other campuses, rather than compared to the size of dissimilar programs on this campus.

"Cal Poly’s soil science department is the largest and strongest undergraduate soils program in the nation and is continuing to grow," Smith said. He said the department’s small size promotes a close and interactive relationship between faculty and students. "This is a hallmark of our department," Smith said.

The Academic Senate committee’s reason for combining soil science with other smaller departments in the College of Agriculture, namely the ornamental horticulture department and the crop science department, is to allow them to combine curriculum and work together.

Smith said that already the soil science department works with other departments on campus, and this decision might limit soil science to relations with only two agricultural departments.

Smith said that he would ask that any merger be well-documented and include the advantages and disadvantages of combining before any restructuring is recommended for an already successful and strong department.

Construction Management Department Head Jim Rodgers said, "Merging one department with another department would not save money, but merging three or four might."

In the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, the city and regional planning, architectural engineering and construction management are three small departments that the committee asked the administration to consider merging not particularly with one another, but with a larger department.

"It’s not going to happen," said Rodgers. "There are too many dissimilar departments to merge, and the decision is up to the individual dean."

Rodgers said that a department shouldn’t merge just because it has fewer than 10 faculty members. A department should merge if it will cut costs, he said.

Rodgers gave two reasons See REACTION, page 7

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