Poll says students want social change

Student activism increases nationwide, but party participation down since '88

By Amy Hooper

A recently released survey involving U.S. college students found that, despite a greater interest in politics, student political participation has declined.

Many have 200,000 students at more than 400 colleges and universities who participated in the survey.

It found that college freshmen value political and social change along with better race relations.

Survey director Eric L. Day of UCLA's Graduate School of Education attributed the increase in interest in racial issues to increased participation in politics.

Chelsea said he found no discrepancy between the interest and the participation in politics.

"I always feel you vote with your feet," McKibbin said. "When somebody says I'm interested and I'm working in Ross Perot's campaign, that's evidence that they are interested.

The survey also revealed a continuing change in students' political affiliations, with 26.7 percent of students endorsing the "conservative" or "far right" labels remaining the same at 20.3 percent.

While McKibbin agreed with the finding that more students call themselves "liberal," he said the fact that this trend applied to Cal Poly.

"This is an upper-middle-class university," he said. "It's heavily liberal point of view." The rise in activism paralleled an increased interest in politics.

Police detain attack suspect

By Matthew Hoy

A suspect in the attacks on local college students was currently being held on unrelated charges.

San Luis Obispo Police Department was called early Sunday morning regarding a possible mudslide.

The suspect in the attacks is currently being held on unrelated charges.

"I'm sure some livestock units have..." Doub said. "Any time you have rainfall, it certainly puts a stress on any farming enterprise, but it's been really welcome."

Crop science professor H. Paul Found had the same observation.

"We were luckier than most," he said. "Any time you have rainfall, it certainly puts a stress on any farming enterprise, but it's been really welcome." 

Doub said his department lost part of a roof to the storm. But there weren't any other major problems, he said.

Jaster said his department lost part of a roof to the storm. But there weren't any other major problems, he said.

"There were small erosion," Found said. "We came through pretty well."

Doub said the dairy cattle weren't..." Doub said. "Any time you have rainfall, it certainly puts a stress on any farming enterprise, but it's been really welcome."
First U.S. combat troops return from Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The first American combat troops flew home from Somalia on Tuesday with excitement, relief and a feeling that they brought some stability to this far-off ravaged land.

The chief U.S. military spokesman, Marine Col. Fred Peck, said he did not know when more of the 24,715 American troops would be withdrawn.

The United States has been stymied in its efforts to transfer military control of Somalia to a U.N. command because the Security Council has not yet acted on a required resolution.

The top U.N. envoy to Somalia, Ismat Kittani of Iraq, indicated Monday that the U.S. deadline of Feb. 1 would not likely be met.

The 556 Marines who left for Camp Pendleton, Calif., were jubilant as they departed, many of them cheering loudly, happy to be out of harm’s way and the heat, disease and dust of Somalia.

More than 500 troops were scheduled to leave Wednesday, reducing Marine strength to less than 9,000.

Another spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Steve Ritter, told the daily briefing that U.S. strength had probably reached its peak in numbers but about 430 support troops, mostly from the Army, will be arriving as part of the logistics task force.

The United States reportedly will provide logistics support to the U.N. command once it is set up.

The Marines are providing security for aid workers trying to break through the famine, disease, lawlessness and civil war that have taken 350,000 Somali lives in the past year.

"I'm excited to be leaving Somalia," said 1st Lt. Anne Christenson, 25, of Vancouver, Wash., looking forward to a reunion with her husband, who is in the Navy.

"It's a pretty hard place to be living in, the heat, the dirt, being shot at. I've only been here for five weeks. It seems like a year, though."  

1st Lt. Anne Christenson

Christenson, an intelligence officer who tracked Somali gangs and bandits, said Mogadishu is much more secure than when the first Marines arrived Dec. 9.

"Some of the schools have started up again," she said. "Some of the police forces have started taking control of the city. They're trying to take the city back from the gangs and bandits."

Even as the battalion was leaving, other Marines providing security for relief workers in the countryside came under sniper fire but there were no casualties.

Two Somalis were captured and turned over to local authorities.

Since American forces arrived in Somalia, one Marine has been killed and one Marine and one Navy corpsman wounded.

As the first American troops departed, representatives of Mogadishu's two major warlords, Ali Mahdi Mohamed and Mohamed Farrah Aidid, tore down the barricades along the capital's embattled Green Line in a symbolic gesture of reconciliation.

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FRESHMEN

From page 1

of liberals and conservatives in a Cal Poly classroom, you have to be prepared to get a barrage from the right.

McKibbin, however, said the college-age generation is more involved in certain liberal issues, such as the environment.

McKibbin's opinion is shared by V.L. Holland, a professor and chair of Cal Poly's biological sciences department.

"People are becoming more concerned over health and environmental issues, basically living over the part of the plant," Holland said.

He correlates such concern with the survey's results which showed an increased student interest in the biological science field. That increase has been seen at Cal Poly as well, he said.

In contrast to the rise in applications for biological sciences majors, the survey showed that interest in business-related majors continued to decline.

John Rogers, interim dean of Cal Poly's College of Business, said first-time freshmen applications to the school decreased from last year, which were a decrease from the year before.

Rogers cited a general decline in college business programs and the state budget as possible reasons for the decrease.

"People are worried, and are going out of state to go to school," Rogers said. "If I were a college freshman and was worried about the budget to the Cal State system, about getting my classes, about getting through in four and a half to five years, I might pay the money and go to Santa Clara (University)."

The survey affirmed a continuing trend toward economic considerations playing a role in students' decisions about college choice. Thirty percent of this year's students said they selected their freshmen college on the basis of low tuition.

This year's survey also reported a decrease in beer and alcohol consumption among freshmen, with 53.5 percent saying they "frequently" or "occasionally" drank beer. But that figure may change, according to Polly Harrigan, Cal Poly's associate director of housing.

A Cal Poly alcohol and drug survey conducted last April found that 68 percent of undergraduates drink, indicating alcohol use at least once in the previous 30 days.

Harrigan credited the different figures to the age and circumstances of the respondents.

"The difference is you're looking at freshmen coming to college," Harrigan said. "So there's a different drinking pattern perhaps by high school students than college students. It is shown that there is an increase of alcohol consumption at the college level than people who don't go to college."

This was the first time Cal Poly freshmen were asked to put their thoughts worth into the survey. The campus joined the 27th annual survey to gain information about incoming Cal Poly students, according to Glenn Irvin, associate vice president for enrollment services.

"By participating in this project," he said, "we were able to get data specifically on our student responses and then compare that with a national database and with students at similar institutions."
By Amy Hooper

The recent rainy weather brought into focus the reality of life without a car. Normally I don't mind not having wheels at my disposal, but cold moisture tends to change my attitude.

As I waited at the bus stop, my jeans slowly soaking up the moisture buffeted against them, my eyes began to change color. Usually my eyes are blue, but I could feel them turn green with every raindrop, and even hear the sound of every warm, dry motorist. There I stood, walking in the natural elements, my umbrella turning inside-out no less than three times from the wind, and those folks traveled in luxury!

That's what a car in San Luis Obispo is -- a luxury, not a necessity. It isn't a required facet of life. In dry weather, I have no qualms about hopping on the bus or moving around under my own power. This town is small enough to move about without the aid of an automobile, but the same cannot be said for my hometown, Huntington Beach.

It's a huge, large, place, like Los Angeles, but the roads aren't as wide, the lot of territory, as befits a city with a population near 300,000. Last time I noticed the sign on Highway 101, the figure for SLO's population read 46,000. Obviously, not as much room is needed to house the smaller number of people. Ah, but you say this is an agricultural area which includes lots of open space. Well, unless you are involved in the Ag industry or actively live in the boondocks, you can still move about easily.

I live at 61 Broad St., a rather convenient location. The bus stops at our back door twice an hour, once on the way to Cal Poly and then on its way downtown. That itinerary covers all my needs, and although the bus schedule doesn't always conform to its timings, it does a pretty good job.

Whenever I miss the bus, my feet come into play, making for a 20-minute walk to Cal Poly and a 20-minute walk back. Being one foot in front of the other requires more effort than sitting in a car, but the benefits are worth it.

Walking doesn't contribute to pollution. The time required to move from one place to another gives me a sense of community, not to mention the daily deal, zone out, whatever. I can listen to a novel or sing a song as I go; Erin became my friend in second grade. How could I skip this occasion? But here I was in SLO, and I doubted that my usual ride-dude would have had a much harder time living in Orange County without a car, but up here it's no big deal.

I found my life to be less stressful driving my umbrella through the rain, and not worrying about the car. Of course I offered to loan me a yellow VW Bug while living away from home. My friends thought I was slightly bony to decline, but the financial responsibilities of insuring, maintaining and fueling a car overwhelmed me. I'd rather not become a slave to a material object.

Sometimes I regret that decision and yearn for the convenience of a car -- but only in extreme cases. Take last weekend, for example. A childhood buddy invited me to her wedding in Huntington. I had to go. Erin became my friend in second grade. How could I skip this occasion? But here I was in SLO.

While the ride board in the U.S. sometimes offers possibilities, it seems like most of the drivers are guys, and I'd rather not get in a car with an unknown male, ya know? I doubted that my usual ride-dude planned to head south so soon after the beginning of the quarter, so I opted for the train.

What usually takes three- and-a-half hours to traverse by car took almost nine hours by bus and train. Times like that would love to drive my own car. But cases such as this happen once in a blue moon. Most of the time, I'm perfectly content to exist without a gas-guzzler.

Until the next rainstorm arrives.

Amy Hooper is a journalism junior. This is her first quarter reporting for Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Cosmetic" cabinet appointees

Dancing during the past century, we have seen in America a wonderful and positive shift from a society governed by prominent white upper-class males, to one more racially and gender balanced. While this transformation is far from complete, it has occurred to an extensive degree in a relatively short period of time.

While great strides have been made in creating a more balanced structure of representation, many of Americans would agree that serious misrepresentation does still exist at all levels of government; local, state and federal.

The election of a Democrat to the office of president will provide a fresh and positive outlook for our nation's future.

Perhaps the primary role of a Democrat in the formation of a diverse presidential cabinet, a well educated and multicultural group comprised of a large number of women and minorities.

Yet some of these appointments were made on the basis of race or gender. Higher qualified candidates were passed up for consideration because of their male or caucasian status.

But is the "politically correct" thing really the most correct thing? Is it better to appoint a candidate more cosmically appealing than experienced?

I look forward to a society where everyone is represented to a fair degree and believes that to be so. But I look upon as backwards a society where those holding positions of power are appointed on the basis of race or gender, and not entirely on their qualifications.

The gains towards equality have been truly monumental, but nothing can change overnight. The furthering of appointment by race or gender will only serve to breed continued contempt and misunderstanding between racial and gender groups.

Stanley Landgarg

Forestry/Resource Management

Jordan, Egypt have no valid claim

Contrary to the fraudulent claims of irresponsible Palaestinian and Arab schemers, both West Bank and Gaza Strip are not "occupied territories." The West Bank and Gaza Strip are not "nationalities" and are legitimate parts of Israel.

The West Bank and Gaza were liberated by Israel in June, 1967 from almost 20 years of illegal occupation by Jordan and Egypt. This illegal Arab occupation began in December, 1947, when Transjordan (now Jordan) and Egypt invaded and occupied the West Bank and Gaza.

The international community and the United Nations do not recognize the acquisition of territory by war. Also, Paragraph Two of Resolution 242 refers to "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." Therefore, since Transjordan (now Jordan) and Egypt "acquired" the West Bank and Gaza "by war" in December, 1947, therefore, since Transjordan (now Jordan) and Egypt do not have a valid claim to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Robert C. Ewing
Santa Maria Resident

Daily doesn't measure up


Now that's truly world class coverage of events which directly influence the way people think and act. What do you think of my chances of getting into the drug-pushing business now? Not much.

In contrast, the Jan. 15 Mustang Daily bears the screaming legend: "Powerful storm etc., Mustang Daily now covers!" What kind of headline is that? Can we expect responsible journalism of weekly world news caliber?

Karen Leffler
Architecture

EAT ART

Happy Feet

The article entitled "Valencia earth/site students to face social issues" in the Jan. 25 Mustang Daily carried a picture of a students doing work with a Masonic Lodge. To the students' credit, it depicts a Medellin Cartel kingpin being "sawn in half." The headline is much more eye catching.

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From page 1
his opponents — are watching
with a wary eye. Interviews with
twelve voters last week — a
diverse group all interviewed
previously during the presiden-
tial campaign — suggest the
roller-coaster of public opinion
Clinton rode on his path to the
presidency is far from over.

"I am encouraged and I am
certainly going to give him some
latitude," said Sacramento,
Calif., attorney Gail White, a
Ross Perot organizer. "But don't
talk to me anymore — do some-
thing. I'm watching and wait-
ing." Public and private polling
including post-election surveys
by Clinton's pollster — reinforce
the findings of the voter inter-
views.

Clinton's favorability ratings
have soared since the election —
to 71 percent in one recent sur-
vey — and the pessimism that
cost George Bush a second term
is giving way to optimism. A
mid-December NBC-Wall Street
Journal national poll, for ex-
ample, found that 47 percent of
registered voters believed the
country was heading in the right
direction — three times the 16
percent who believed that just
before the election.

"The level of optimism is quite
extraordinary and I'm frankly
stunned by the degree of hopeful-
ness that has swept the country," said
Clinton pollster Stanley
Greenberg. "There's not a lot of
depth to any of this at the mo-
moment, but it does reflect an enor-
mous amount of good will."

In many ways, the mood and
desires of the voters appear con-
tradictory. They have high expectations
for Clinton after a campaign in
which he promised to revive the
moribund economy and struck a
chord with voters by pledging to
ease two of their greatest wor-
rries: the financial burdens of col-
gege and health care.

Yet even as they finish talking
about their desire for fast action
they shift into sober discussions
of the hurdles Clinton faces:
"I must say I'm a little conf-
used about changes in his plan," said
George Wefing, a lifetime
Republican from Apalachicola,
Fla., who voted for Clinton be-
cause of his soaring health care
premiums. "But I'll give him a
year before I pass judgment. He's
got a lot of big things to do so we
have to be patient."

Like track coach Powers, who
voted for Bush, most of the
voters talked more about their
children and grandchildren than
themselves — worrying aloud
about health care costs, a nation-
al
debt they see crumbling the
foundation of the nation's future,
turmoil and uncertainty in so
many places around the globe.

"I love them and hope that
they are able to live in a world
that is free from all of these
problems, both at home and in
Somalia, Iraq, around the world,"
Powers said of his grandchildren.
"I just hope he takes the long
view."

Mustang Daily
Never afraid to substitute a
real name with the word
"Blinky" to protect the
innocent
Poly splits weekend games

By Kevin Bolinger
Staff Writer

Teams are tested in the face of adversity. This season, the Cal Poly men's basketball team has had its share of tests — and so far the Mustangs are surviving with passing grades.

Over the weekend, the Mustangs split their two games at Mott Gym, beating Chapman 89-83 on Friday night and falling to Cal State Dominguez Hills 68-65 on Saturday. Last week's announcement that Cal Poly center Shawn Kjellesvig is out for the season from three-point range. But the key to the win was on the boards, where the Mustangs beat Chapman 43-28, including 20-10 in the offensive rebounding column. "We just crashed the boards," Kjellesvig said. "It's fun to get a big rebounding win."

Saturday night's loss to Dominguez Hills was a season affair featuring 11 ties and 17 lead changes. Ellis paced Cal Poly with 18 points, including 4 of 5 shooting from three-point range. But the Mustangs' bench went to the second half, shooting only 26 percent.

However, the statistic that is most glaring is the large disparity at the free throw line, with the Toros going to the charity stripe 22 more times than Cal Poly.

Beason said the high foul total is partly due to his team's aggressive defensive play. "If we keep playing hard defensively, we'll become more efficient and foul less," Beason said. "We're playing hard. If we keep this up, we're going to win."

Oliver's status is day-to-day pending examination of the x-rays of his leg. He's listed as questionable as the Mustangs take their 1-3 conference record on the road this weekend with a combined 9-2 record.

The Mustang men charged out to early wins in the 400 medley relay and the 200 freestyle en route to a 115-105 win.

Jeremy Brigham swam to victories in the 100 and 200 freestyle, while Trevor Sanders won the 50 freestyle and Scott Gawel won the 200 backstroke. The Mustangs closed the meet with a victory in the 400 freestyle relay.

Without any divers for Cal Poly's women, they started the swimming events 26 points behind Northridge, and never made up the ground.

The women won only one event on the afternoon and fell 154-76-5.

Meria Slight's victory in the 200 breaststroke was the lone Cal Poly win.

Jenni Pricker had two second-place finishes for the Mustangs in the 200 individual medley and the 200 breaststroke, almost qualifying for Nationals with her time in the latter event. Also with strong performances were Jody Campbell and Steph Keller.

"We were behind right from the start," said Cal Poly's Trish Hance. "And they have a really good team."