Poly planning to cut fire station

By Heather Crookston, Mustang Daily Staff

University officials are planning to eliminate Cal Poly's fire department in June despite earlier plans to spare it from the budget crisis, a memorandum revealed Tuesday.

Frank Lebens, the university's vice president of business affairs, said the move should not be coming as a surprise.

"We have been phasing them out and downsizing for awhile," he said. "This is nothing new."

Lebens said Cal Poly's budget crisis has forced the administration to choose between eliminating classes or services, and the fire department was an alternative to be sacrificed.

He said operating costs for the department were about $450,000 per year before the scaleback.

With the city providing protection, Cal Poly would pay about $150,000 annually.

"I'm trying to keep classrooms open," he said.

Lebens said negotiations between Cal Poly, the city and the San Luis Obispo Fire Department will begin immediately.

Emergency Medical Technician Glen Claypool, an agricultural graduate student, said he wasn't surprised about the move.

He said firefighters had been hearing rumors about the closure for some time, and the department had already been scaled firefighters.

Claypool said fire department employees were not to be informed of the decision until Thursday. But they were told at an 8 a.m. conference yesterday because information leaked out from a memorandum posted in the university's Public Safety Department.

See FIRE STATION, page 6

SNAP changes brought to ASI

By Todd Hogan, Staff Writer

Revisions made by the city of San Luis Obispo to ASI's already approved student peer policing program were introduced to the Board of Directors at an ASI workshop Monday.

Changes made by the city to ASI's Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP) — in which students would serve primarily as first-call respondents to noise complaints — concern issues of liability and who will be the official employer of the student participants.

"The city wants ASI to run the administrative duties as well as be the official employer of the SNAP volunteers," said ASI Vice Chair Brent Hultquist.

The city has agreed to reimburse ASI for costs associated with SNAP, although SNAP personnel would technically be employed by ASI.

Hultquist said that could increase ASI's liability if SNAP was sued as a result of SNAP's activities.

"There is no such thing as an ironclad agreement — even indirect employers have the chance of being held liable," Hultquist said.

See STUDY, page 6

Greener pastures

DOUGLAS R. ALLEN/Special to the Daily

Serenic settings like this of a barn nestled among the hills are symbolic of these first days of spring.

Serbian couple give views on Yugoslavian war

By Sitas Lyons

The two sat facing each other in the darkened apartment. He puffed intently on a cigarette. A few beams of light got past the windows, highlighting her thick, blonde hair.

"You cannot use our real names when you write about this," he said. "I live in a free world here, and that's how I want to live. I know if my name is printed that I would be harassed."

His wife nodded in agreement.

Zoran and Olivera — not their real names — see ample reason to be cautious. The Serbian couple have built a new life as naturalized American citizens, and they cherish the relative political peace that comes with living so far from their homeland, the war-torn former nation of Yugoslavia.

He owns a business in Grover Beach and she works at Cal Poly. They have a little girl and a home to think about.

They have their own views on the tumultuous conflict pitting ethnic factions against one another in the former Yugoslavia.

"Why is the whole world against Serbia all of a sudden?" Olivera asked.

"You have to understand," Zoran said, leaning forward and speaking with passion.

"Everybody has a sad story. Everybody's touched."

The reason Serbs have been judged so quickly, Olivera said, is "that people here don't travel, and they believe everything they see on CNN. And it's different when you're over there."

"Americans just don't understand."

Zoran alleges a higher conspiracy. "It's a big religious war," he said. "I am a 100 percent positive that the Vatican is involved."

Croats, Serbs' most bitter enemy, is primarily Catholic.

Zoran and Olivera stressed that they did not agree with all the actions of Serbia's leaders. They are offended, they said, when people accuse them of contributing to a civil war they hate.

"People don't want the war," Zoran said. "Politicians do. Leaders all seek their name to be put in history. They don't care about people, only fame and money."

This includes, he said, Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. "He's a snake," he said. "I don't approve of him."

Zoran said Milosevic never really shed his Communist and totalitarian roots. "People can change, but not that much," he said. "How did he learn about democracy oversight?"

Not all sense of nationalism has been relinquished, though. "We sympathize with our people," Zoran said. "We have to. Croats and Muslims hate Serbs more than we hate them."

"The only way is to build a (wall) between them," Zoran said, with a smile.

"You have to understand," Olivera said. "That these people over there have a military background. It's in their blood."

While they are unable to predict an outcome for their country's struggles, the couple passionately expressed their hopes that their nation would not suffer more than necessary.

"We have history. We have tradition," Olivera said. "You can't just banish them. They are a nation."

INSIDE

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The federal Rodney King beating case fell into the hands of its jury Tuesday / page two

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Brad Hamilton on board games: Knowing when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em / page four
Glitch foils shuttle launch — again

Cape Canaveral, Fla.

For the second time in two weeks, a space shuttle countdown came unhinged in the final few seconds before launch early Tuesday. The likely culprit: a computer glitch.

But another problem, engineers believe, may have been the cause.

NASA officials hoped to have the problem corrected and resume the countdown by Tuesday evening. That would allow Discovery to blast off at 1:29 a.m. EDT Thursday on its mission to examine Earth’s fragile ozone layer.

Columbia’s countdown on March 22 was aborted three seconds before lift-off when a switch valued the main engines to shut down. And Discovery’s on-board computer automatically halted the countdown 11 seconds before launch, less than five seconds shy of main engine ignition.

NASA immediately deduced the engines with water and had to drain $28,000 gallons of fuel from the external tank, Shuttle director Thomas Utsman estimates every second cost about $500,000.

The five-member crew spent the day reviewing flight data and flying training jets.

"Space flight is a complicated business, and sometimes things don’t go as planned," said shuttle commander Kenneth Cameron.

Support swells for accused woman

Sonora, Calif.

A bail bondsman says a Sonora woman was "very overwhelmed" when he posted $500,000 bail so she could get out of jail on a charge of murdering a man who accused of molesting four boys, including her son.

Ellie Nesler, 40, was freed from Tuolumne County Jail Monday evening after Sacramento bondsman Alex Padilla put up her bail.

Nesler then went into seclusion with her 7-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son pending a Justice Court preliminary hearing on charges of assaulting Nesler’s boy and three others between 1986 and 1989.

"She was very overwhelmed, naturally that I posted her bail but by support she’s received from everyone, Padilla said in an interview Tuesday.

He said his reward was knowing Nesler could go home with her son.

"Knowing that they were going to walk out the door together, that was satisfaction right there," Padilla said.

John Pike, space policy project director for the Federation of American Scientists, was less charitable.

"It’s bad luck that they’ve had two aborts in a row. It’s good luck that they caught the problem on the ground.

"I see this as a reminder that this system is not perfect and that at some point in the near code we’re going to have another Challenger accident."

State takes in millions less in taxes

Sacramento, Calif.

Tax revenues last month were down 3.3 percent from March 1992, reflecting the recession’s continuing grip and fiscal growth that has lagged behind even pessimistic projections.

The state controller’s office said Tuesday that the state took in about $71 million less last month than during March 1991, or about $2.104 billion compared with $2.175 billion.

The drop “represents the largest decline in the fiscal year to date,” Controller Gray Davis said. But, he added, “Last October revenues also decreased three percent and then picked up. The March revenue returns would be just another pothole in the slow road to recovery.”

The March 1993 figures also reflect the expiration of the accelerated state tax, which had been in effect last year.

The controller said personal income tax revenues were down $136 million, or 30 percent, and bank and corporation taxes dipped 8 percent compared with March 1992. Part of that slide, however, was offset by sales and use taxes, which rose by $102 million, or 10 percent, over March 1992.

Davis also said that revenues had grown by only 4.5 percent overall during the first nine months of the 1992-93 fiscal year, far below the state budget’s estimated revenue growth of 8 percent.

Davis described the figures as “more disappointing news about the economy."

Compiled from Associated Press Reports
New Rec Center opening delayed

By Deanna Wulff
Staff Writer

The same rains that ended California’s drought problems this year brought a flood of problems for the new Rec Center, pushing the planned opening date back to mid-June, according to Rec Sports officials.

Bill Ashby, assistant director for Rec Sports, said that in addition to the opening, “the rain delayed the builders ability to do a lot of things.”

Construction crews have found several leaks in the building and are in the process of fixing them, Ashby said. In addition, the landscaping and cleaning still need to be done.

As a result, the building — which was scheduled to open this spring quarter — will not be open until summer.

The grand opening is tentatively scheduled for fall.

The contract for building the center, held with SAE/Continental Heller construction company, expired on March 21. On March 22, the company began paying a daily fine of approximately $750 a day, according to Mike Deneve, ASI project manager.

“There is a notion that Rec Sports is stalling, but we are just as excited as everyone else,” Ashby said. “We have already hired a full staff.”

The staff has already been trained and is ready to work, but they do not have regular work schedules assigned due to the delay, Ashby said.

Some of the staff, however, is being employed to guard the vacant building.

“The building is not ready to be used and it is just not safe,” Ashby said. “The facility supervisor staff watches over the building 24 hours a day.”

Other workers will remain out of work until the center opens.

“I don’t have a job,” said Tod Johnson, a business junior scheduled to work in the center upon its completion. “But it is not hurting me that badly as far as work is concerned.”

Johnson, like many students, is disappointed that Rec Center is opening late, and not simply for the job opportunity.

“I want to use it just like everyone else,” Johnson said.

Sean Jenkins, a forestry and natural resources senior, said he is disappointed by the delay and “that the majority of students won’t be able to use it until September and that all those people counting on jobs don’t have them.”

Alex Pock, an electrical engineering senior, is graduating and said he won’t get to use the new facilities at all.

“I am pissed off,” Pock said. “I was hoping I would get to use it.”

Charles Smith, an electrical engineering freshman, had a more optimistic outlook.

“I am very disappointed because they have been leading us on, but I will look forward to it when it finally opens,” he said.

The Rec Center’s opening date has been delayed until summer while crews work to repair leaks in the building and do general clean up and landscaping outside. The facility was to open this quarter.
As I read about American River College (ABC) officials banning table games played with cards, I was shocked to find out that the Sacramento-area junior college, I was shocked with thoughts of burly riot-clad officers dragging my sister away from a busted chess game by the hair and into their “I dig dirty dominoes” t-shirts with mini-domino morality. I hoped checker- not part of this breakdown in late to get help. I hear there are tell her I love her, and it is not to bed and sprang for the phone, against my desk (I forgot I unfortunately cracking my head roost).

you on parole did they assign you you know the type — filthy I had to call my sister, who at­

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By Brad Hamilton

"Bred, what did I tell you about eating that fruit growing from trees in your back­ yard? my yard to be reckoned with." But I explained to her that this wasn't different than the time I called her claiming Janis Joplin and I had a great time at the Mary Chapin-Carpenter concert.

It was soothing to hear my sister had not been arrested for spiking her oppo­ nent rock or for screaming "Yahoo" in the college library.

at Cal Poly (scientists have yet to identify the strange mini-pear­ looking fruit that tastes like a mango crossed with a golden apple). It was soothing to hear my sister had not been arrested for spiking her opponent rock or for screaming "Yahoo" in the college library.

But I am still horrified that these college officials are crack­ ing down on table games played on campus.

ABC Dean of Admissions Robert Allegre said the policy, which took effect March 1, was due to disruptive behavior by people playing in the cafeteria and the library. Disruptive behavior? Hmmm.

Granted, it may be disruptive to hear dice rolling or game chet­ ter in the library, but in the cafeteria? Their cafeteria must be quite different than the stalls on our cafeteria?

Brad Hamilton is a jour­ nalism senior. This is his fourth quarter reporting for Mustang Daily — we're referred Brad to psychiatric help, but he refuses to attend.

Mustang Daily Policies

Commentaries and reporter's notebooks are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Mustang Daily. 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 better chance of appearing in Mustang Daily. Commentaries should be between two and three pages (between 800 and 1,000 words), double-spaced, and turned in to the opinion editor's box at Mustang Daily. Commentaries are welcome from students, faculty and members of the community; submission does not insure publication. Mustang Daily's out-of-town staff reserves the right to edit letters and commentaries for length, accuracy and clarity. Submissions to the opinion page or inquiries about Mustang Daily can be made at the Mustang Daily office, Graphic Arts room 226. Electronic mail submissions can be made via bslevine@trumpet.calpoly.edu.

Mustang Daily realizes that the principle factor in having an opinion is being informed. To this end, the Daily would like to take this opportunity to inform its readers as to events which will aid them in becoming more educated about the upcoming ASI elections.

Open forum for presidential candidates in the University Union — 11 a.m. Thursday, April 13. AND HURRICANE WINDS:

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Environmental Career Fair

A career fair featuring employers whose primary goals include the solutions to environmental problems.
Open to all majors, however fair was developed for technically oriented individuals seeking careers.

Where: Chumash Auditorium
When: April 8, 1993 10AM - 3PM

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Decision Focus, Inc.
E-N-G Mobile Systems, Inc.
Environmental Careers Organization
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McLaren Hart
Systems Applications International

Government Agencies
California Department of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water
California Air Resources Board
Cal Trans, San Luis Obispo
State Water Resources Control Board
Environmental Protection Agency, Denver CO
California Integrated Waste Management Board

Presented By Cal Poly Society of Environmental Engineers
STUDY

From page 1

"It was a shock to students," Claypool said. "We heard about it through word of mouth."

But Claypool said he had expected the cut.

"I had an idea this was going to happen," he said. "The administration realized a long time ago they didn't want to take care of the fire department. It would have been nice if they would have done it a little more professionally, as a matter of speaking."

The department was slated for closure in fall quarter. But administration officials recanted, and gave indications the department would survive, firefighters maintain.

"When Lebens and Risser came and talked to us (in fall), they said basically for the next four years, "You guys are pretty much safe,"" Claypool said. "I guess that changed."

San Luis Obispo City Council Member Allen Settle, a Cal Poly political science professor, said late Tuesday he was "regretful" the station would be closed, but would open to the idea if costs can be mitigated.

However, Settle expressed concern about response times from an off-campus station being delayed by train traffic at the intersection of California and Foothill boulevards. He said it would be logical that fire station No. 2 on N. Chorro St. would be delegated to servicing Cal Poly because, among the city's four stations, it is closest.

"If emergency help has to come via Palm or Highland, response times could be longer," he said.

Cal Poly Public Safety Director Joe Risser said Tuesday that, although there will no longer be a fire department on campus, emergency services will be available through city services.

"My main concern is the safety of students, staff and faculty," Risser said. And that safety, Risser said, is not in jeopardy.

Landscape architecture senior Peter Haus has worked intermittently at the fire station for over four years. He said the unit was "absolutely" the right place for the station to be,

"There are all kinds of things that they have there," he said. "A lot of classes are taught at the fire station."

However, Settle expressed concern about response times from an off-campus station being delayed by train traffic at the intersection of California and Foothill boulevards. He said it would be logical that fire station No. 2 on N. Chorro St. would be delegated to servicing Cal Poly because, among the city's four stations, it is closest.

"If emergency help has to come via Palm or Highland, response times could be longer," he said.

By having SNAP personnel on campus, life would be easier for firefighters, he said. "They can get to the fire faster and have the right equipment in place."
Mustang Daily is looking for Cal Poly students, faculty and staff, who cultivate marijuana for personal, medical or financial purposes. We need your help, but not your name or phone number. We have plans to verify your story (no imposters) but we will take every possible step to maintain your confidentiality. Call 756-1143 Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and talk to Alex, Carolyn or Peter for details.

Get Involved

Make Student Safety a Priority

CAMPUS WATCH

Applications available at the University information desk.

Information meeting tonight
6-7 pm Building 8, Room 123

Turn in completed forms to student life and activities box #140

Photo by Steve Pierce