Insurance costs put help out of reach

Critically ill may fall through cracks in ‘fragmented’ health care system

By Jennifer Morehouse
Staff Writer

Guy Serene is 48 years old. He has a wife, three young children and terminal brain cancer. What Serene doesn’t have is health or life insurance.

Serene, a resident of Morro Bay for 20 years, worked locally as a contractor before being diagnosed with cancer. He doesn’t have health insurance because he wanted to wait until he was financially stable before purchasing it.

To help offset the price of Serene’s mounting health care bills, friends and family called on the community for help.

A trust-fund benefit recently raised more than $12,000 to go toward Serene’s medical bills. In Serene’s case, the community support has kept him from falling through the cracks, but local hospital officials say that not everyone is so fortunate.

Last year, General Hospital — the county’s only not-for-profit hospital — served approximately 50,000 people. Of those, 20 percent did not have medical insurance and did not qualify for any type of government aid, said Jim Gatter, General’s business office manager.

Gatter attributes these figures to costly health insurance. According to an estimate for basic hospital-surgical health insurance from the State Farm Insurance office of San Johnson, it would cost $499.47 per month to insure a family of five. John­son said the cost puts insurance out of reach for 30 percent of San Luis Obispo residents. He predicts prices will continue to escalate.

Johnson believes that even if a national health plan is imple­mented, private insurance agencies will still play an important role. He said that while the na­tional plan may slow the in­crease in prices, it will still use the private agencies in its program.

Mark Goldberg, General Hospital’s chief executive of­ficer, disagrees.

"A national health care sys­tem is the only way to provide care for everyone,” said Goldberg, who suggests a total reform of the health care system by eliminating “fragmentation.” Fragmentation refers to the dif­ferent types of treatm ent centers, such as private prac­tice, clinic and smaller hospi­tals as opposed to a more streamlined system which flows into a single larger hospital.

He cites “regionalization” as a possible cure for our current health care problems.

The idea of regionalization has been around since 1920, yet has never been fully initiated. Goldberg said. It consists of primary care being available nearby for general ailments, a few secondary facilities available for more serious health problems and a large hospital in the middle of the region treating serious illnesses.

“We need to get rid of inven­tives by taking profit out of the system,” Goldberg said.
Children in the Branch Davidian cult compound say they were paddled for tripping sins, told to call their parents "dogs" and sexually abused by cult leader David Koresh, a newspaper reported.

The children, who left the compound during the siege by federal agents that began Feb. 28, told social workers that Koresh gave girls as young as 11 plastic Stars of David that signified they were of foreign governments blocked over the years in U.S. accounts. The Usting is part of a congressional effort "to do something about international terrorism," says a Treasury Department report.

The government's chief economic forecasting gauge recorded its worst drop in more than two years during March, signaling lethargic growth this year. "There's no real oomph," an economist said.

The index of Leading Indicators fell 1 percent, the sharpest decline since November 1990, in the middle of the recession, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. The index is designed to predict economic activity six to nine months in advance. Three consecutive declines are a good, although far from foolproof, sign of a recession ahead.

Economists said the index's movements so far this year signaled sluggish growth rather than a renewed recession. The index rose 0.5 percent in February, edged down 0.1 percent in January and jumped 1.7 percent in December, the biggest increase in 10 years.

Economic indicators take dive
Washington, D.C.

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At the White House, President Clinton used the report to prod Congress to enact his proposed budget-deficit cuts, which he said would stimulate the economy by keeping interest rates low.

"We've set the direction and are filling in the details," he told reporters in the Oval Office. "We're developing a plan to make this orderly withdrawal and place the production in other locations," she said. The decision by the closely held, San Francisco-based company affects 50 contractors who produce 2 percent of the company's output, Butler said. The company pays about $45 million each year for 5 million shirts and pairs of pants from sewing and laundry contractors in China.

By Butler said on Tuesday.

Butler said the decision was based on guidelines the company adopted last year to govern its business dealings abroad. They include a provision saying the company should not start or renew contracts in countries with pervasive violations of human rights.

There was no one particular violation that led to the decision, Butler said.

The embassy for the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C., did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

The decision coincides with increased debate in Washington about whether the United States should ex­ tend preferential trade rights — most-favored-nation status — to China. The debate began after China's Com­ munist government crushed pro-democracy protests in 1989.

Compiled from Associated Press Reports

Levi says China violates rights
San Francisco, Calif.

Levi Strauss & Co. is phasing out clothing purchases from contractors in China because of what the company calls pervasive human rights violations in that country.

Levi Strauss, the world's largest maker of name-brand clothing, made the decision last week, but expects the withdrawal to take several years, spokeswoman Linda Butler said on Tuesday.

"We've set the direction and are filling in the details. We're developing a plan to make this orderly withdrawal and place the production in other locations," she said. The decision by the closely held, San Francisco-based company affects 50 contractors who produce 2 percent of the company's output, Butler said. The company pays about $45 million each year for 5 million shirts and pairs of pants from sewing and laundry contractors in China.

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Compiled from Associated Press Reports
Students race to pollution-free future in HPV

By Kristi Rampoldi
Staff Writer

Pedal-powered vehicle a test bed for car technology

Pylon from automobiles may one day be a thing of the past. Cal Poly and other colleges around the country are working on new technology that could eventually clear the way for a pollution-free, human-powered vehicle (HPV). While the extinction of the automobile is not imminent, new materials being made up to the HPV could lead to a lighter and more efficient car, according to research. Cal Poly’s American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is part of the wave toward this new technology. ASME has its own human-powered vehicle called “Intuition.” It is a recumbent bicycle equipped with aero-dynamic shell called a fairing. Working on projects like the HPV give students hands-on experience that will enhance their engineering careers in the future, according to George Leone, president of Transportation Research Associates. TRA is a local non-profit research organization dedicated to an advanced composite plastics and a sponsor of Cal Poly’s HPV. Leone said that college students are an essential part of the research process in the advancement of these new materials. “The reason we’re so involved with Cal Poly is that we like to work with people with open minds, and students are willing to take chances,” Leone said. “The workmanship among the students is extremely high — good or better than that of professionals that build HPVs as hobbies.” The advanced composite plastics Leone’s company manufactures make up the faireding of the HPV. These plastics are used in such items as tennis rackets, fishing rods and motorcycle helmets. There are two types of HPVs: one for racing, the other for more practical uses such as commuting to work. “Racing is assisting development of the HPV by testing the vehicles under difficult circumstances,” Leone said. Cal Poly is also involved in the racing aspect of the HPV.

Kinder, gentler jail wing approaches occupancy

New facility features pleasant colors, skylights to help inmates calm

By Len Arends
Staff Writer

A brighter, cheater $8 million addition to the San Luis Obispo County Jail will open for operations within the next three to four weeks, according to county officials who conducted a tour of the new facility Tuesday.
Sheriff’s Sgt. Scott Thompson said the state-of-the-art structure is designed to hold 196 inmates and incorporates many advanced security and safety features.
Sheriff Ed Williams said that the county jail is used to hold people awaiting trial and leaves security terms of less than one year.
The facility is capable of operating independently in the present 22-year-old jail, with its own booking area, drunk tanks and a central control room. The central control room is the nerve center of the facility, where doors are electronically blocked and unlocked and remote cameras are monitored.
The addition adds eight inmate cell blocks to the existing six, Thompson said. Each cell block has independent showers, dining halls and recreation areas.
During the tour, Thompson pointed out the various security levels of different cell blocks. Two are low-security dormitories, with bunk beds grouped in a common area and direct access to an outdoor exercise yard.
The other six blocks have individual cells, with accommodations for one person, but the ability to be expanded to two.
The walls are a non-descript beige with strips of dark burgundy and cool gray just above eye level. Skylights are used in the common areas of every cell block, admitting natural light into the enclosed environment.
The coloring and lighting of the interior is designed to calm the inmates, according to Williams.
“The inmates’ conduct is a lot better in a colorful environment than in a regular drab, gray jail,” he said.
Capt. Tom Garrity, the jail commander, said an advanced feature planned for the addition is a $120,000 video arraignment system which would link a room in the jail to the courthouse via telephone lines. Arraignment is when a judge hears a defendant’s plea to the crimes he or she is charged with.
Garrity said the link would be used to carry out an inmate’s arraignment proceedings without having to bring the inmate to court.

Mustang Daily. Love it. Touch it. Recycle it.
Today we commemorate the 131st Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, when, in the year of 1862, Benito Juárez, a Zapotec Indian, president of Mexico, along with his forces, achieved the first major victory against the invading French Army. The leader of this army was General Ignacio Zaragoza.

With the defeat of the French Army (6,000 strong) came a surge of enthusiasm for the Mexican forces who had been struggling to defeat the French. The peninsula that the Mexican Army (6,000) had felt was gone, and even though the situation did not favor the impoverished Mexicans, the will existed to fight the enemy and drive the invaders from their homeland. México's fight for self-determination began here, and its ideology is echoed in the words of their leader, Juárez, who said that, "I am quite sure that some store not far from San Luis Obispo has already announced their 'Cinco De Mayo food and beer specials.' It has been estimated that 1988, companies like Adolph Coors and Anheuser-Busch spent about $25 million to publicize this event in Southern California alone. In 1989, Anheuser-Busch and Coors sponsored the Cinco De Mayo celebration in downtown L.A., which turned out to be a drunken fiasco. The Annual Cinco De Mayo concert held at Lincoln Park in East Los Angeles was stopped when people began to throw bottles and rocks, and a car exploded, leaving one man dead. Many people were injured, and one person was killed. Again, Anheuser-Busch was involved in the sponsorship of this event. The real losers in this case are the people of this community who have not had a Cinco De Mayo celebration at their park since this incident took place.

For Chicanos and Mexicanos in the United States, Cinco De Mayo represents a day of continuing struggles for equality, self-determination and justice. It is the responsibility of everyone to create a safe environment on our roads. By Pedro Arroyo

Napoleon III, saw this as a good opportunity to make Mexico an empire controlled by France. Juárez, faced with a strong French offensive, decided to leave the capital and relocate to the State of San Luis Potosí, from which he fought until 1864, when the Mexican forces were defeated and Juárez accepted the control of France, which was led then by Emperor Maximiliani of Austria with his wife, Carlota. From 1865 to 1867, Mexico continued to resist and finally, on May 15, 1867, Maximiliani surrendered to Mexican General Escobedo.

It is unfortunate to note that the history and true significance of Cinco De Mayo for Chicanos and Mexicanos in the United States has been forgotten. What has often been a day of cultural pride and patriotic identification has fallen into the hands of commercial corporations for the purpose of turning a civic celebration into a quick way to make a profit. I am quite sure that some store not far from San Luis Obispo has already announced their 'Cinco De Mayo food and beer specials.' It has been estimated that 1988, companies like Adolph Coors and Anheuser-Busch spent about $25 million to publicize this event in Southern California alone. In 1989, Anheuser-Busch and Coors sponsored the Cinco De Mayo celebration in downtown L.A., which turned out to be a drunken fiasco. The Annual Cinco De Mayo concert held at Lincoln Park in East Los Angeles was stopped when people began to throw bottles and rocks, and a car exploded, leaving one man dead. Many people were injured, and one person was killed. Again, Anheuser-Busch was involved in the sponsorship of this event.

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Impress Your Friends!

Mustang Daily is searching for an editor-in-chief for both the summer and the 1993-94 school year. Candidates can apply for one or both positions and are required to turn in a cover letter, resume and proposal to Peter Hartlaub, current editor of Mustang Daily. All is due on May 11, 1993 at noon. Proposals must be no more than five pages, double spaced. All Cal Poly students are welcome to apply. Questions? Call Peter at 756-1143.

KCBS Central Coast Public Radio & The Cuesta College Music Department Present: Mother's Day Picnic

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SAN DIEGO (AP) — The University of California, San Diego, faces a budget cut of at least 8 percent beginning this fall, possibly eliminating hundreds of smaller classes and up to 70 instructors, school officials said.

The cuts come as the 18,000-student college and its sister institutions across California struggle with cutbacks in the amount of money they received from the recession-wracked state.

"We are in very serious trouble," UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson told students at a forum Monday.

"The problem is that the state has walked away from its support of the University of California."

The nine-campus UC system faces an expected $243 million shortfall in state money beginning July 1. And that could worsen, UC officials have warned.

"Our budget shortfall is an estimated 9 percent," said Linda Marietta, an ROTC representative for the West Coast.

"I really think the direct lending program is wrong." Also joining the skepticism were veterans' groups who were outraged that the new plan would provide more generous benefits than those available under the GI Bill.

"I wouldn't be able to speculate on how this will affect (military) enlistment," Marietta said.

"I think this will make the national service plan more favorable than joining the military," said Ryan, who felt the proposal would make the national service plan more favorable than joining the military.

**UCSD set for 9 percent cut**

**UC system faces expected $243 million shortfall**

**PLAN**

From page 1

much trust in our government," added Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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**ECOLOGY**

Every Thursday, a look at the standouts of Cal Poly atletics.

**A TH L E T E of the WEEK**

Every Thursday, a look at the standouts of Cal Poly atletics.
Sales Positions Available

Mustang Daily is currently looking for motivated salespeople interested in a position selling advertising space in our newspaper. Positions will be available starting fall quarter, and interviews will begin immediately. Sales experience is recommended, but not required. If you are looking for experience and some extra money, contact Matt Macomber at 756-1143.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Campus Clubs

**SAM NEWS**

Society for Advancement of Most

Students in Journalism

Spring Tour Info at 8:00pm

GOLDEN KEY!

Meeting this Fri, 6:00pm-7:00pm

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**Mustang Daily** is asking **YOU** to participate in the **Mustang Choice Awards**. Fill out **YOUR** ballot and turn it into the box at the **UU Information Desk** or the **Mustang Daily** office in room **226** in the **Graphic Arts Building**. All entries must be received by **Friday, May 14** at **3:00**. Results will appear in the **Poly Royal Edition on May 20.**

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