Shrouded by fog

Baker to announce open house decision at conference today

By Suzanne Hook

ASI and the Student-Community Liaison Committee (SCLC) have scheduled a 3 p.m. press conference today (Thursday) at City Hall to announce University President Warren Baker’s decision on a proposed school-wide open house.

"The last call is made by Baker," ASI President Marquam Pires said. "I expect that people will be pleased with the results.”

The proposed annual open house event is a revised version of Cal Poly's traditional Poly Royal. The event was canceled in 1993 because of rioting. The SCLC, a committee dedicated to monitoring and improving student-community relations, proposed the idea to Baker July 26.

"The SCLC proposed what steps it would take to bring it (a Poly Royal-type event) back,” Pires said.

Members of the committee include San Luis Obispo Mayor Peg Pinard, Chief of Police Jim Gardiner, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, President Baker, ASI executive staff representatives and other community and student leaders.

The entire committee will convene in the San Luis Obispo City Council chambers to hear Baker's announcement.

"We thought it would be most advantageous that we go back to the committee to announce the next step,” Pires said. "We thought this would be the best way to get information out and to emphasize that we're working with the community.”

If the proposal is approved, the Open House Planning Committee will take over the responsibility of organizing the event. Guidelines have been set in the proposal to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of the goals and concerns put forward by the SCLC.

"We want to start off small, but strong, to make sure that everything goes well,” said Mary Key Duffy, an ASI executive staff member.

"SCLC has made strides in improving relations and we want to make sure that (the first event) is a success which can be built upon.”

Since the cancellation of Poly Open House, page 2

Pair has eyes for Poly’s blind

By Jeffrey Jen

When Benny Martin, a blind psychology and human development senior, is handed a course syllabus or handout, he relies on a retired couple to put the material into a form he can read.

Don and Reggie Rohde are that couple.

They have brailleled and read onto cassette tapes for Cal Poly's visually impaired the past five years. For their services, Cal Poly's Disabled Student Services (DSS) and ASI's College Level Undergraduates Becoming More Enlightened about Disabilities (C.L.U.M.E.D) recently honored the Los Osos couple as Braillette and Cal Reader of the Year.

Don and Reggie Rohde are that couple.

For the couple, it was the most recent of many awards they have received throughout their retired lives for dedicting time and work to assist the visually-impaired.

The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) recently presented Don with an award for donating 1,539 working hours in one year. It was the most hours anyone contributed in the central section of the San Luis Obispo County chapter of the California Council of the Blind.

"It is our contribution to the community,” said Don, 77, of his recording and his wife's brailling.

"We are happy to receive these awards,” added Reggie, 80. "It shows that we are being recognized for our work.”

Working with Cal Poly's disabled students isn't the only work the Rohdes do. The Rohdes and chapter president Carol Blake, who is blind, also formed a Blinding Awareness Team that goes to secondary schools to speak about their program.

They are also involved in the Blind Bowlers Club. Every Monday at 9 a.m the trio goes to Laurel Lanes in San Luis Obispo to assist the blind as they bowl.

Rohde points the visually impaired bowlers in the right direction while Don calls out the pins knocked down. He also tells them the score. When close the bowling ball was to the pins left standing.

Rohde said she was in.

Don and Reggie Rohde braille and read to tape for visually-impaired students.

ET classes canceled, students left hanging

Phaseout may force some to leave Poly

By Joy Nieman

As the phaseout of Cal Poly's engineering technology program begins its second year, some ET students are close to becoming casualties of the department's lingering demise.

ET junior Adam Molina is one of those students. He said he received a letter two weeks ago informing him that nine classes he needs to take to graduate will not be offered this year.

Because of that, he said he was not certain if he would return to Cal Poly in the fall.

I'm trying to push finishing in ET, Molina said, "but I'm hanging by a thread.”

Associate Dean of Engineering Paul Rainey, former head of the engineering technology department, said the department is working hard to fit the needs of all ET students.

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Since the cancellation of Poly Open House, page 2

Emergency sirens to blare on Saturday

Two tests of the county's Early Warning System sirens are scheduled for Saturday between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m.

The sirens will sound for three to five minutes, according to test plans from the County Office of Emergency Services.

Siren locations range on the coast from Cayucos to the Nipomo Mesa and inland in an irregular-shaped area of about 12 to 20 miles from the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

In an emergency, the Early Warning System sirens are designed to alert the public to tune radios to 920 or 1400 on the AM dial or 98.1 FM — or to any San Luis Obispo County Emergency Broadcast System radio.

Opinion

Reporter Lisa Iruguin makes her case against the use of capital punishment/page four

City

A trio of Cal Poly women take top honors in the Miss SLO County beauty pageant/page three

Campus

Three professors are honored by faculty and students as Distinguished Teachers/page two
Poly honors three with prestigious teaching award

Students, faculty pick school’s most ‘distinguished’

Heather McLaughlin
Staff Writer

Cal Poly has honored three faculty members with its most prestigious teaching award.

Susan Duffy of the speech communication department, Donald Maas of the University Center for Teacher Education and Charles Slem of the psychology and human development department have been named Cal Poly’s 1992-93 Distinguished Teachers.

The Distinguished Teacher Awards Committee, made up of five faculty members and two ASI-appointed students, acts on nominations from faculty, staff and students.

The committee selects three teachers in midspring whom it feels are the most qualified of all the nominees, said Harvey Greenwald, the committee’s chairperson.

"It is a really a student initiated process," Greenwald said.

During fall quarter, flyers were placed around the campus prodding students to nominate a favorite professor, Maas said. Students presented their nominations to the committee along with a reason why they think their nominee deserves to be honored.

Mr. Raymond F. Zeuscher, speech communication department chair, said Duffy is an appropriate choice as one of the distinguished teachers.

"She puts a lot of energy into her teaching and is deeply committed to her field," he said.

Greenwald, the committee's chairperson, said she was delighted to have Maas presented with the award.

"We believe that we should demonstrate outstanding teaching because that is our business," Roper said.

Maas instructs classes on teaching effectiveness. In his classes, Maas helps elementary, secondary and college-level instructors relate better to students through participation in student activities, such as waiting in line to register.

"He's a wonderful teacher," said human development senior Stephanie Schoenfeld. "He brings enthusiasm to psychology, and I admire him."

Each teacher received $1,000 from money donated by alumni, which was awarded to them during the spring graduation ceremony.

A plaque will also be presented to each teacher during the general session of Cal Poly faculty’s "homecoming" fall conference in September.

From page 1
Royal, individual colleges at the university have sponsored their own open houses.

"By bringing them together on one weekend, it would be more dynamic and draw great enthusiasm from the entire campus and community," Duffy said.

A Cal Poly open house will give the school an opportunity to showcase its academic excellence, according to one of the guidelines written in the proposal.

OPEN HOUSE

SIREN

From page 1 station — for official information and instructions.

The sirens were installed as part of the Emergency Response Plan for the Diablo Canyon plant, but may be sounded by the county for any emergency. The sirens are activated by radio from the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Department.

A full-volume test of the entire system is conducted annual-ly by the county and PG&E. Individual sirens are tested every quarter as part of a continuous maintenance program.
Poly students finish 1-2-3 in county beauty pageant

By Monique McCarty
The Sun

A Cal Poly business senior was crowned 1993 Miss San Luis Obispo County in the California Mid-State Fair Aug. 20. Tracy Hanson said her success would continue when she goes up against 37 other beauty contestants for the 1993 Miss California USA pageant.

"I actually had a very good feeling about winning," Hanson said.

The canceled classes were replaced by a brailling class this year, resulting in only five students in it. "I wish budget cuts would not have caused the classes to be canceled," said Carol Montgomery, a 24-year-old human development junior, who went on to become a corporate runner-up in the Miss San Luis Obispo title.

"I wish budget cuts would not have caused the classes to be canceled," said Carol Montgomery, a 24-year-old human development junior, who went on to become a corporate runner-up in the Miss San Luis Obispo title.

"Very few people need the classes to succeed in real life," he said.

"I have told her some of the trick questions the judges might ask," Carr said. "She also knows with my training — working out and eating right — I am going to have the most of the judges."

"But it's not that easy," he said. "I can't do that in a patrol car. The bike's more thorough and effective." Montgomery said bikes are an appropriate law enforcement vehicle because people don't expect an officer to be on a bicycle.

"When criminals are committing a crime they aren't looking for — police on a bike — they're looking for a patrol car," Carr said. "It's not until the police are off their bikes that they realize it." The bike patrols, purchased from Broad Street Bikes in San Luis Obispo, are painted and outfitted with special gear.

"We order them with street tires, special rear racks for equipment, white paint and 'police' written in black," said Dana Iverson, owner of Broad Street Bikes.

Jim English, administrative sergeant for the San Luis Obispo Police Department, said the department has used bike patrols occasionally for more than 13 years.

"Bicycle patrolling is a good idea for more congested areas like Cal Poly," he said. "It enables (an officer) to approach someone very quietly." According to the CSU's annual crime statistics released this year, violent crimes on the Cal Poly campus rose from one to five in 1992 — a 400 percent increase.

The bike patrols may be another way to fight the rising crime rate on the Cal Poly campus, Kennedy said.

"The bikes are helpful to Cal Poly's DSS, according to coordinator Chris Blake, because they’re too hard for a patrol car to cover these congested areas," Montgomery said.
Coming from a military family (my father was in the navy), I was raised to believe in America and our government — I was supposed to love our country, celebrate dead presidents’ birthdays, barbecue in the Fourth of July, be obedient and always answer my father with a “yes sir” or “no sir” instead of “blonde” and “thank you.”

I used to think there was nothing wrong with the death penalty. I thought to myself, “What’s wrong with killing a confessed serial killer or a rapist?”

I thought of how I would feel if a member of my family or a friend were killed or otherwise affected by a brutal crime. And I used to think the death penalty might not be a bad solution for criminals that hurt those close to me: An eye for an eye, a strong opinion either for or against it.

An 18-year-old girl.

I admit that I’ve never been put to death row, I just feel that a criminal that is committed, maybe even feel remorse, and possibly even pay a debt in mental suffering.

Another reason I object to the death penalty is that its effects are irreversible. It’s a lot easier to release a prisoner from jail than it is to bring a prisoner back from the dead.

A two-year study of capital punishment in the United States by Hugo A. Bedau of Tufts University and Michael L. Redlich of the University of Florida brings this point home.

The study documented 417 people who were wrongly convicted of capital offenses and 23 who were actually executed in the United States in this century. An estimated 6,400 people were wrongfully convicted of capital offenses in the past 20 years. I think that’s too many.

I feel that murder is wrong, whether it be for individuals, but for governments as well. If I am ever placed in that position, I realize that I will experience strong feelings of anger and rage.

We should leave it to the media and our high-tech industries to construct a new, virtual reality for the public while the academic institutions begin in Europe and continued in the New World slowly, but not the author brought up some points in the book that changed my mind and made me realize capital punishment is wrong.

The death penalty is costing us citizens way too much financially and morally.

Financially, it costs more to execute a prisoner than to keep him in jail for life.

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By Lisa Iruigin

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Capital trials require more expert witnesses and more investigators. Jury selection takes an inordinate amount of time.

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PCPA digs through 'Love Letters'

Nostalgic play documents 50-year romance

By Monique McCarty
Staff Writer

Throughout history letters have been sent and received. Whether it was a note passed in class, a letter from home while away at camp from friends while at college, it seems love letters are the best kind of letters to receive.

"Letters are an intimate way to communicate," said Roger DeLaurier, the play's director. "One is free to remove masks and share who they really are without the immediate reaction of face-to-face conversation."

The romance created through paper and pen in "Love Letters" is brought to its audience in a unique way.

The play's characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace, bring to life Ladd III, a boy who sits side by side at a table reading their letters aloud to each other.

Their story spans a 50-year period, beginning in the second grade. Their tale is told entirely from the first, carefree valences of grade school to the serious letters of adulthood that deal with marriage, divorce, and death.

"It doesn't matter what age you are," said Moira Warren, PCPA's publicist. "Everyone will be able to relate in one way or another depending on what stage of life they are currently in."

According to playwright Gurney, the play is somewhat autobiographical and makes audiences laugh and cry, Warren said.

The characters are born into the elite world of New England society. Under social pressure they are forced to deal with dance classes and boarding schools.

As they grow older, Andrew becomes stuffy and condescending, Melissa becomes volatile and rebellious.

"Love Letters" deals with their different lives and how their love and friendship links through each other.

Student Sylvia Matsuhashi agreed. "My husband died, and I realized I was becoming a recluse," Matsuhashi said. "I needed to get out. I've met a lot of nice people here."

But there also seems to be an underlying lack of realism to the sequences of events the movie takes.

At the beginning of the film, Kimble's wife has been murdered by a one-armed man. Tragically, Kimble is acrimonious and then convicted when the justice system misinterprets his wife's dying words. He is sentenced to death by lethal injection.

"Ford flees the law TV drama 'The Fugitive' makes 'smashing' silver screen debut"

By Jeffrey Jen
Staff Writer

The theme for this summer's silver screen seems to be suspense and action. After "The Firm," "In the Line of Fire" and "Cliffhanger" left movie fans clutching their seats, yet another action thriller, "The Fugitive," has making its way into theaters nationwide.

The movie is based on the television series of the same name which ran from 1963 to 1967. Starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones, the revamped, big-screen sequel makes it's case as one of the best movies of the year.

Ford plays the fugitive, Dr. Richard Kimble. Directed by Andrew Davis, the plot seems simple. But once the action commences, many twists and turns keep the audience tuned-in.

"Ford flees the law TV drama 'The Fugitive' makes 'smashing' silver screen debut"
BALLROOM

From page 1

Tuesday, Harvey and some of his students will participate in a dance competition in Las Vegas. They have done well in past competitions, she said.

Couples may enter any one of 20 different divisions and compete at various skill levels.

FUGITIVE

From page 1

makes the audience forget about the lack of realism in the beginning of the movie.

On the way to prison, Kimberle escapes after a failed takeover attempt by fellow inmates causes the bus they're in to crash and subsequently get run over by a train. The scene is so fast and dramatic it again moves realism to the background.

Enter Jones as Detective Sam Gerard of the U.S. Marshall's Office. He takes over the case to track down Kimberle.

Gerard is a joker who has an unanny knack for his work. Jones portrays the detective as obsessed with tracking down Kimberle, no matter how dirty the job gets.

In perhaps the most dramatic part of the film, Kimberle cries out, "I did not kill my wife." The coldly efficient Gerard replies, "I don't care."

After his escape, Kimberle is haunted by memories of his deceased wife. He returns to Chicago (the site of his wife's murder) to track down the killer.

What ensues is a cat-and-mouse mind game between Kimberle and Gerard that hypnotizes the audience. Kimberle receives help from old friends from time to time, but Gerard has his own squad of efficient investigators.

Thanks to many plot twists, the ending makes itself clear in the final minutes of the movie, thus causing the action to finally lose steam. By that time, however, people are too drawn in to care.

REREADERS

From page 3

the service, Parker-Kennedy says. Don believes there are two reasons for his popularity: he tackles books that other people won't and he gets his work done faster.

Parker-Kennedy agrees. "Students always ask for him," she said. "He does technical books, like engineering. Many other people just read literature because it's interesting. When it comes to the technical stuff, they think it is boring. But Don does it anyway."

"He also gets the tapes done immediately, which is always a plus."

Reggie is the only brailleist who serves Cal Poly's FSS office. Parker-Kennedy describes her as "equally wonderful."

"Both are just full of energy," she said. "They get their work done very fast. Both are very pleasant and professional."

Don proudly said reading and brailleing is the couple's life work, now that they are in retirement.

On an average day, the Rohdes immediately dive into their work right after breakfast. "I go into my workroom and start pounding on my braille machine and Don goes into his (workroom) and starts record­ ing," Reggie said. "We close the door and don't see each other until lunchtime."

They said they may take a nap in the afternoon but only as a break between work. Sometimes they'll stay up until midnight to finish their work.

The service the Rohdes provide is strictly voluntary. Cal Poly and other organizations usually supply them with paper and other materials needed, but sometimes they purchase necessities with their own money.

The Rohdes live off their Social Security benefits. They are living comfortably in their home in Los Osos and can afford the extra expenses of their volunteer work, they said.

And their volunteer work has become an essential part of their life. "I would be lost if I was not brailleing nowadays," Reggie said.

Both agree the satisfaction of tackling books most other people can't, and finding a new challenge every day, is the best part of their work. They said they only wished more people would like to do what they are now devoting the rest of their lives to.
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PHASEOUT

From page 3 are being most affected by class cancellations.

In the mechanical concentration, Rainey said 20 students were still in need of upper-division ET classes. He said 20 others have completed all their degree requirements, except for senior project, which will still be offered.

In the electronics concentration, 22 students need courses and 13 have completed their requirements, less senior project.

By Rainey's calculations, the ET department will be able to graduate more ET majors currently enrolled. He said the five students lacking the prerequisite classes no longer offered by the department may find it more worthwhile to switch majors rather than attempt to substitute a large number of courses from other engineering departments.

Students were given several options when ET was targeted for phaseout in spring of 1992, Rainey said. Graduating seniors could finish classes at Cal Poly Pomona, transfer the credits and still obtain a degree from here. Students could also decide to substitute courses no longer offered by ET, change majors or transfer to another school.

Rainey also said that since this past spring students have been informed of those courses being offered that would not be made available again.

He also said as many as seven transfer students who entered the ET department in fall of 1992 were admitted with the understanding that they were to switch majors immediately.

"I've been sensitive to the situation, so I've been trying to help," Rainey said. "I don't know what else we could have done differently."

"We were told we would be able to graduate," Molina said. But now, he said he's been told to transfer.

Rainey acknowledged that he advised Molina to seek enrollment at Pomona if he wanted to continue pursuing an ET degree.

Rainey said he would recommend the same for the other affected students. Otherwise, he said, there is only so much the department can do.

"If they (decide) to stay in ET and cannot take a certain class, we will work with the students as much as possible and help them find a course to devote," Rainey said.

Safwat Moustafa, assistant department head of mechanical engineering, said his department is also working with ET students who want to substitute an ME course into their curriculum.

"We take it on a case-by-case basis, depending on the course," Moustafa said. He said some ET students have even switched to mechanical engineering and are doing well.

"Any time there is a change of major, there is inherent delay," Moustafa said, referring to the time students usually have to spend catching up on prerequisites. "This time the delay is quite modest."

Molina said he was exploring his options.

"From what I understand, a lot of students admitted when I was either left or switched majors," he said.

If he can't graduate from Cal Poly as an ET student, he said he might change his major to industrial engineering.

"I think it's worth it to stay at