Discrepancies found in college figures

By Sally Strahl Busbee
interns

WASHINGTON — For years, American colleges have railed against magazine rankings of their campuses as oversimplified "short cuts" that gloss over the complex, subtle nature of learning. Now there are contentions that some of the schools, under pressure to attract students, are fibbing about the figures they send each year for the rankings done by U.S. News & World Report, Money magazine and others.

The rankings have come under closer scrutiny since an April 5 Wall Street Journal article reported discrepancies in data sent for the rankings and information sent to debt-rating agencies.

The dispute over the rankings has underscored the importance of marketing to the nation's 3,000 colleges and universities. "It's a buyer's market," says Lee Benton, dean of admissions at the University of Pennsylvania, whose school was not mentioned in the Journal article. "And the amount of publicity you get helps determine the students you get."

A spokesman for New York University — which was mentioned in the Journal article — said questions asked by the surveys can be interpreted in different ways, which results in varying answers.

For example, the Journal reported that NYU, in responding to the U.N. News survey, excluded the SAT scores of about 100 poor students in a special state-sponsored program. But NYU's Virgil Renzulli said Monday the U.S. News survey asked for SAT scores for students entering school in the fall. The 100 excluded students began classes in the summer.

"This has become a fairly big thing. We don't take this as an accurate rating of how good a school is," Renzulli said.

Among other discrepancies reported by the Journal:

— New College of the University of South Florida, in Sarasota, reported its freshman class average SAT score as 1296. But that score was obtained by cutting off the bottom-scoring six percent of students, raising the average 40 points. Admissions director David Anderson told the Daily that the school had a much higher average.

Ribeau was asked to visit the campus, meet with students and make several group presentations before he received the job.

"The committee narrowed the field from 100 to six and then began personal interviews," McLean said. "The committee wanted someone that the students would like. We therefore made each candidate come to the campus (to) meet students, and asked for student's input."

According to McLean, Ribeau was the student's first choice and the candidate best qualified for the position.

Ribeau could not be reached for comment, but his new colleagues praised his appointment.

John Laskey, vice chairman of the Bowling Green board of trustees and a member of the search committee, said Ribeau met all the requirements the committee set. Laskey added that Ribeau's warm, easy manner and self-confidence contributed to his selection.

See RIBEAU, page 7

Former Poly dean named president of Bowling Green

By Natacha Collins
Daily Staff Writer

Cal Poly's former dean of the College of Liberal Arts will be Bowling Green University's new president, the university announced Friday.

Sidney Ribeau, who was dean at Cal Poly from 1990 to 1992, will assume the post in July.

Bowling Green, located about 25 miles south of Toledo, Ohio, has approximately 16,000 undergraduate students and more than 2,000 faculty members.

According to Gardner McLean, a public relations staff member at Ohio's Bowling Green University, Ribeau was chosen from more than 100 applications and nominations.

Ribeau was offered the position after the 16-member search committee — comprised of board of trustees members, faculty and students — completed a series of interviews.

Ribeau was asked to visit the college and accept the position by July 1.

"We are thrilled that our search has ended with a candidate of Sidney Ribeau's caliber and experience," McLean said after the announcement.

See SUPREME COURT, page 7

Supreme Court sends negative message on affirmative action

By Louis Aresco
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused today to reinstate an affirmative action plan for promoting black firefighters in Birmingham, Ala., and also left intact a $420,000 award won against Duquesne Light Co. in Pittsburgh by a white man denied a promotion.

The justices, without comment, turned down arguments by Birmingham officials and black residents that the plan was a valid effort to remedy past bias against blacks.

A federal appeals court had ruled that the plan unlawfully discriminated against whites, and today's action left intact the appeals court decision.

The court's action in the Pittsburgh case also was taken without comment. The justices refused to hear direct appeals from 11 states on a variety of arguments that the award won by Frederick Claus should be overturned because there was no evidence of anti-white bias.

In an accompanying order:

— Agreed to use a lawsuit stemming from the 1983 downing of a Korean airliner over the Persian Gulf to clarify what damages can be awarded when Americans die on international flights.

— Said it will use appeals from two District of Columbia residents to clarify a federal law that adds five years to the prison sentence of anyone who "uses or carries" a gun while engaged in drug-trafficking.

— Turned down the appeal of a Secret Service agent being sued for taking along a CNN camera crew when he searched a New York City apartment.

In the Birmingham case, black residents, the federal government and the local NAACP were upset.

See SUPREME COURT, page 7

Lighting up

William J. Bancroft "Billy Joe" (left) from Austin, Texas, rolls a cigarette while Dove "The Tramp" Camp from Tuscon, Ariz. looks on. See story on page 2 / Daily photos by L Scott Robinson
When you can't go home . . .

Beneath its beautiful scenery, San Luis Obispo harbors a growing homeless population.

Story by Tara Bradley

W hen you can't go home

Story by Tara Bradley

Whether seen in front of Linnaea's, near San Luis Obispo Creek or enjoying a bagel on Broad Street, it's not uncommon to see homeless people sitting on benches and walking the streets of San Luis Obispo.

Just as spring attracts students to San Luis Obispo's sun-filled streets, so does it attract the homeless. But the homeless in San Luis Obispo are also a part of the community. While they are used to glares, turned cheeks and lectures, they are here to stay.

It's because of this that many in San Luis Obispo have a hard time with local homeless people.

"I do not know why they come here, but I am getting a little tired of seeing the same guys as I've seen last year," said recreation administration sophomore Amy Widdel. "I do not give money out in this town anymore because I know it goes towards alcohol."

The attitude is common among Cal Poly students and the community.

Fowler, nighttime staff member at the Economic Opportunity Commission Homeless Shelter on Orcutt Road and founder of the nonprofit organization Grass Roots, believes job competition contributes to San Luis Obispo's homeless population.

"Jobs and affordable housing are being competed for by college students and professional folks," she said.

"There is just not enough to go around."

See AGENDA, page 5
CO LLEG E SCHOOLS: Some administrators say the questions from polling agencies can be misinterpreted

"But there is such force com­petition for students," she notes. "If you drop in those rankings, alumni might call. The president might get angry."

Some of the discrepancies un­covered by the Journal were in­advertent, schools say — the result of handling up to 50 sur­veys a year.

In most cases, the flawed data also wouldn’t have changed the schools’ rankings, guidebook publishers insist, because they consider many different factors.

Nevertheless, the publishers say they’re disturbed.

"Some of these schools have admitted to purposely lying on our survey," says Robert Morse, director of research for the U.S. News guide. The same colleges "would reject a student who lied on an application."

When the rankings are published they can have an im­mediate effect. Schools with good

rankings often call news con­fere­nces. Alumni at schools that drop in rankings demand to know what went wrong.

"The difference between rank­ing No. 1 and No. 2 in one of these surveys is simply not a credible difference," said Bar­bara-Jane Wilson, dean of admissions and financial aid at Wes­leyan University in Middletown, Conn. "Nevertheless, it's a wonderful marketing tool for the school ranked No. 1."
Farmers get money for nothing

By Jason D. Plemons

American farmers could feed the world with their dedication to crop production.

I grew up in the San Joaquin Valley where farmers are king; they wield political power that rivals the power of those in Congress.

My grandfather was a farmer and his parents were farmers. I went to school with sons and daughters of farmers, and spent some time tending young grape vines in the sweltering heat of the Valley’s summer.

But what I am going to write will no doubt kick soil at people in the agriculture business.

Farmers are one of the largest recipients of federal subsidies in the country, and what they receive is less than welfare. When Congress speaks of welfare reform, it should take a long, hard look at the American farmer.

It may be true the farmers of America produce enough food to feed our country and the entire world. It is also true they often grow too much, and harvest their crops on the backs of poor immigrants from Mexico.

Migrant workers are not only subjected to low wages and poor housing conditions, but are poisoned daily by the overspray of chemical pesticides.

Some will attempt to refute this accusation by saying farmers are one of the largest recipients of federal subsidies in the country, and what they receive is no less than welfare.

American farmers could feed the world with their dedication to crop production. I say these people are either from the companies that manufacture the pesticides, or farmers who are unaware they are being duped by the corporations that make the pesticides.

Well, back to my point about welfare. What other industry in the United States can receive federal money and not produce anything at all? To my knowledge, there is none.

While farmers complain about the risk of going under year after year, some are getting filthy rich by not producing anything at all? To my knowledge, there is none.

But what I am going to write will no doubt kick soil at people in the agriculture business.

Farmer’s get money for nothing

Jason D. Plemons is a journalism senior and Daily staff writer.
AGENDA: San Luis Obispo homeless aren't a homogenous group

From page 2
According to Fowler, the drug problem is difficult to pinpoint due to the fact there are no fine lines drawn between drug usage and those who abuse drugs.

"Many times drug and alcohol abuse stem from highly dysfunctional families that eventually turn the abuses away after he or she has flown the coop all over the family," Fowler said. "With no (detoxification) center in the county, there is a major cross-over of people with mental illnesses, post drug use and a combination of both. They usually become self-medicating, using drugs to get out."

She estimated the number of mentally unstable homeless is currently at 35 percent, adding that "the closure of mental institutions has had everything to do with this."

However, according to Beverly Dawson, a volunteer at the shelter, the public tends to look at the homeless as a homogeneous group.

"They are the people you walk by every day and never realize that they are homeless," she said. "The (homeless) population is increasing and will continue to grow because we, as a state, do not have the viable income we need."

But, Dawson says, this is only part of the problem.

"We have a large incidence of people here from abusive homes, kids with learning disabilities that were never tested and various other problems," she said.

The purpose of the shelter is to try and get people back on their feet, Dawson said. "If you devote a lot of time to them (the homeless), there is a good chance you can get them out of a bad situation," she said.

Life is a shelter
The EOC shelter is run by a mostly volunteer staff, with a few paid positions. The shelter is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. It then reopens at 4 p.m. and serves a hot meal to a roomful of anywhere from 40 to 100 people.

The dinner setting is loud with clanging and chairs sliding. All with the sound of forks and cups are eager to eat a hot meal and prepared by workers at the Head Start kitchen in Shell Beach.

Volunteers serve up such dishes as green beans, salad, new fresh rolls with a smile on their face. Towels, bars of soap and shampoo are handed out as face. Towels, bars of soap and shampoo are handed out as

The shelter has 49 beds which are almost always full. The overflow, usually 20 in number, is in the chilly winter months, are turned over to the local churches for shelter.

"I have been here for six days," said a homeless man outside of the shelter on Orcutt Road who refused to give his name. "I have two weeks to break down and come here. I camped on the streets that time."

Others choose to hole up at the beach, creekside or in their cars around town.

When asked on Tuesday when the EOC shelter's doors are closed, the People's Kitchen at the Mission of Chorro Street in San Luis Obispo is open for service. It provided a daily varied menu during the nine day, Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday at 1 p.m. It is run by an all-volunteer staff that, in connection with five other churches in the area, has sheltered women and children.

TAXES: Jan. 1 to May 6 belongs to Uncle Sam

From page 1
An average taxpayer must work two hours and 46 minutes in an eight-hour day to pay federal, state and local taxes. Or, viewed another way, the average taxpayer must work from Jan. 1 until May 6 to pay the government. That's tied with 1994 for the latest time Tax Freedom Day was held. According to Fowler, the nation is partly financed by corporate grants.

"We find the burden of government is very high," said J.D. Foster, executive director of the foundation. The calculations assume all personal and business taxes are divided equally among individuals.

Ninety-one years ago, when Holmaz wrote his pithy appreciation of tax freedom, Tax Freedom Day came at the end of January.
It's One Of The Most Useful Credit Cards On The Planet. *Unless You've Stolen It.* Your MasterCard® is stolen. You panic, get angry, panic some more. Then you call and cancel it. Now the thief is in possession of, oh, about seven cents worth of stolen plastic. (Maybe he can use it as a coaster when he entertains at the hideout.) So relax. You only have to pay for stuff you bought, and you can get a new card the next day. It'll be accepted at millions of places, one of which must sell wallets. *MasterCard. It's more than a credit card. It's smart money.*
Gov. Wilson goes back to ‘normal day’ after minor, second-throat surgery

After an initial round of litigation, the Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that the white firefighters could challenge the affirmative action plan. That year, the fire department ended the 50 percent annual goal for fire lieutenant promotions because it had met the 28 percent overall goal. But the white firefighters’ lawsuit continued through the early stages of the mid-1970s, alleging racial discrimination in hiring and promotion.

From page 3

There were no public appearances Monday by Wilson, who is in the early stages of his third year of meetings and office work, aides said.

"He was talking, having meetings all day. It was a normal day," Wilson aide said.

If schedule if his recovery continues at the current pace, Wilson’s surgeon, Dr. Gerald Berke, described the surgery last week as routine and said Wilson would recover fully in a few days and to avoid extended speeches about for a week.

Berke said the毛病, about three millimeters wide, was responsible for voice problems Wilson has complained of for years, such as hoarseness and difficulty clearing his throat.

Ribeau has spent the last three years working at Cal Poly Pomona as the university’s vice president of academic affairs and a leader to both faculty and staff, according to Bruce Lewis of Cal Poly Pomona’s Publications Department.

"The university will be sad to see him leave," Lewis said. "He brings out the strength in people and is always positive and encouraging."

Cal Poly Pomona’s President Bob H. Suzuki expressed mixed feelings when Ribeau announced his new position at Bowling Green on Friday.

"Ribeau has made important contributions to Ribeau’s selection of Bowling Green," said Suzuki. "I have absolutely no doubt that he will make an outstanding president and serve in his usual outstanding manner. He will be sorely missed.

Large universities are a familiar workplace for Ribeau. He earned his undergraduate degree at Wayne State University and worked on an advanced communications degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He also taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago, according to McLean. Ribeau also was dean of undergraduate studies at CSU-Humboldt.

"Detroit is (Ribeau’s) hometown," McLean said. "It is only two hours away from Bow­ ling Green, so he should feel very comfortable here. We plan on giving him a great homecoming."

SUPREME COURT: Black firefighters in case rallied for equal hiring

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RIBEAU: Chosen for his leadership qualities

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AVENUES OF INNOVATION
ROADS TO DISCOVERY

CAL POLY - OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 22, 1995

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