The Board of Supervisors may be changing its priorities since the election of new members.

We've got opinions up the wazoo today, including why Alan Dunton thinks credit/no credit is a crock.

Meet Taryn Sperry of the women's basketball team.

BY KIM KANEY  
DAILY STAFF WRITER

WEEKEND IN THE ARMY

Two people, one assignment: spend a weekend running around Camp San Luis with Cal Poly's ROTC, then make it back alive with the story and pictures to tell about it.

grabbed my pack and loaded into the van. The butterflies in my stomach were getting bigger. I didn't know what to expect and neither did the 13 other students in the van. I was headed for Camp San Luis with the Cal Poly Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) for field training exercises. Each quarter ROTC cadets and students taking military science classes spend a weekend similar to the one I was about experience.

We loaded out of the van and into our platoons. I filed into the second platoon, second squad, alpha team. I wasn't the only one without any experience or ideas of what to expect last weekend. But we were all ready for anything. Everyone had camouflage makeup hiding their faces. Leaders seemed stressed, but there was a smile hidden beneath all that camo.

"Attention!" Stand up straight, heels together, eyes forward, lips silent and don't move.

"Everything seemed so formal. The cadets carried out specific procedures, following army protocol. "Talking activities and putting people into organization isn't second nature," said Col. Rich Kane.

The weekend was a training exercise for the leaders. They'd be evaluated on leadership and communication skills. A lot of people were stressed because of the pressure, he said.

Our first activity of the day was land navigation, where I discovered that ROTC takes "learn by doing" to the full extent. Everyone circled up for a quick course on compass skills Kane watched on as the cadets explained everything. He stood with his pipe gently rested on his bottom lip. The smoke circled around me as he watched me take notes.

Cadet Dan Tallieno, a political science senior who plans to join the army reserve, walked over to introduce himself as my guardian for the weekend. If I had a problem, I was to consult him, but I was determined not to admit when I got tired.

Before we could proceed Kane said, "Safety is integral. It is in combat. It is in training. It is in everything." We headed out with an instruction sheet and our compass in search of specific points to find. My team leader, Cadet Barbara Arnold, a construction management senior, led the way. She had difficulty in determining our destination. Frustration clouded her judgment. In the end she found four of her points and we headed back to the starting point.

After a longer navigation-point search, it was time for lunch. This was the highlight of the day and also the longest amount of time we had to eat. We had about 10 minutes to eat a meal ready-to-eat (MRE). All food came individually packed in plastic bags. I had tuna with noodles, crackers, grape jelly, pound cake, M&Ms, coffee, a powdered beverage, Chiclets gum and Tabasco sauce.

"Tabasco makes everything taste better," said Cadet Landon Tymoch, a business senior. I saved my miniature Tabasco as a souvenir.

My MRE was about the only thing in my ruck I ever had a chance to use. My ruck, or backpack, was full with my notebook, a toothbrush, a brush, change of socks, and other personal items I never should have brought. They were just extra weight. Besides my ruck, I was wearing my vest that held two full canisters and small arms pouches.

After lunch, we fell back into our platoons and marched up to the next station chanting: "They say that in the army the chow is mighty fine."

From top, counterclockwise: Computer science junior Ty Shepard carries the "pig." Shepard commands his platoon; and electrical engineering junior Robert Shaeffer, practices a still-breathing drill for accurate shooting.

See ROTC page 2
Biscuit rolled off the table and hit me in the eye. The eyepie is might fine, won't let me go.

My battle buddy, Cadet Ty Shepard was controlling the M-60, the "pig" as many referred to it. This is the weapon with the most destructive power. He was excited to be in control. We took concealment behind a tree branch and waited for the enemy to approach. The leaders' weapons were real and loaded with blanks.

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"You know those student loans you didn't pay back? Well, I'm here to repossess your education."
Is the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors shifting its attention to another type of green? With the replacement of David Blakley with Mike Ryan, there has been growing concern that the focus of the board has shifted from protection of the environment to economic growth.

Sarah Christie, aide to Supervisor Bud Laurent, said while the environment was more of a priority for the board, the focus has changed.

"The board hasn't taken any formal position, but the indicators so far are that they are making environmental protection and enhancement less an emphasis than it has been," she said.

However, Christie said the public's perception of the board being unified towards growth is not true. It is now a 3-2 vote, she said.

But David Garth, president of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, chalks up the board's reputation to the new members' previous campaign themes.

Garth said one can't say the board leans more towards growth or environmental protection and enhancing the environment was more of a priority for the board, the focus has changed.

"There is the campaign and then there is reality. I think the way you judge is to watch the action, and I don't think there is enough action yet," Garth said.

But a recent vote to revise the 1996-97 budget goals, may have given some cause for suspicion. The board changed the only line that addressed the budget in relation to the environment. It previously stated that the goal was to "...enhance and appropriately use the natural assets of San Luis Obispo County." It was changed to "...create an effective balance between the economic, environmental and social interests of San Luis Obispo County."

Rick Hawley, chairman of the environmental group Greenspace, said he is concerned about the new board.

"They have put the environment on the back burner. And doing that is very dangerous," Hawley said.

"Our nation is the envy of the world because we take care of it. And as long as we continue to do so, we will be prosperous," Supervisor Ruth Brackett said that there was no reason why the board couldn't be pro-growth as well as pro-environment.

"We are pro-property rights," Brackett said. "But that does not equate to destroying the environment. It is a matter of looking at everybody's concerns and allowing some development, as well as protecting those places in the environment that are very important."

Brackett said the board would work with developers and the community to create a balance between economies and the environment.

Christie said if the public has any concerns, they should contact their supervisors either by calling the offices or writing them.

Brackett agreed.

"People have to get involved in the development of their communities," she said. "Citizens must voice their opinions."

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Weebiesííay, h'ehruary
it's easy for Homer to sit back and watch the planet
aptly described an egotist's excuse for pushing
through theft" was accurately titled inasmuch as it
terday's opinion page. "Building a better planet
his/her own personal agenda on others. I suppose
"Green Issue," and accusing the paper of being
"biased" towards an alleged pole. On the other
on a job well done. It should be obvious that
Mustang Daily has a dutydlb report the public
goes, Horner does an incredible job of almost filling
an entire page without giving us anything we didn't
pollute the hell out of it whenever it wants to.

From another point of view, what Homer
Horner equates government regulatory actions
Homer's argument, which stems from too many students falsely believing
they understand philosophy, is that grades really undermine education
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ple” owners are everyone, represented by the gov-

Another facet of this excuse is that
Other students may argue that they
describes a reality right now. The beach’s “multi-
piece of student policy, and
I'd use the Force to write this paper.
Jay Thayer, Recreation administration

"To turn myself
into Jimi Hendrix."
Ryan Vernazza,
English sopho-
more

"To bring back
disco, baby!"
Spencer Hart,
Animal science
sophomore

"To be able to
spread my music."
Vanessa Viric,
Liberal studies junior

"To get all the
bartenders
downtown
to make me
stronger
drinks."
John Mandell,
journalism
junior

"I'd use the
access code
to change all
my grades."
Shabbir
Ahmed,
Environmental
engineering
senior

"I'd get the
lecture
notes to
change my
grades.
"John Mandell,
journalism
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spread my music."
Vanessa Viric,
Bad to some, good to others

MEGAN LONG

While reading Monday's opinion piece, "Professors should teach facts, not force opinions," I thought that the writer had gotten something very wrong. She said that depending on luck, someone will get a good or bad instructor. Instead of explaining what she means by "good" and "bad," she assumes that these adjectives have objective meaning. Those two words mean different things on an individual basis. The professor who is "good" to one student may be considered "bad" by another.

When the writer made the mistake of classifying instructors as good or bad, she fell into the very trap she protested against. She said that instructors should not voice their opinions in class, but teach the facts instead. But just what are the facts? Webster defines a fact as "something put forward as objectively real." In the context of Monday's opinion, good and bad are both very subjective terms - are known facts? That's just my point - many things that have been purported as facts aren't worthy of the label.

Creativism was accepted unconditionally by many people as a fact until Darwin's theory of evolution was proposed. Now the public is being trained to report facts impartially. Similarly, when multiple people witness an event, chances are they will report different "factual" accounts of that same event.

Total objectivity is impossible to obtain. As a journalism student, I am being trained to report facts impartially. But, as my journalism teachers have admitted, we are all biased in some way, leading to slightly slanted writing. This is because we are human and it is part of our nature to have our opinions. Differences make life exciting.

If the instructors of our classes just reported the "facts," we would still hear the opinion of someone. This would most likely be a person who made an impact on history - someone with a high status that his/her opinions have been adopt-ed as facts.

So why aren't our instructors' opinions worthy enough to be expressed in class? Is it because they haven't left their mark on history? If they were Nobel Prize winners would the expression of their opinions be justified?

The writer said that in an ethics class, her professor didn't express his opinions because he wanted to encourage class discussions, but what about classes that deal with abstract topics like philosophy? In some cases, students may not be accustomed to the manner of thinking related to the topic. The professor might voice his/her opinion to get students thinking and begin a discussion. Or, as in one of my classes, the professor might put forth a provocative statement (not his/her real opinion) to generate response from the class.

The acting instructor I've had at Poly was an ethnic studies professor who presented multiple views, including his own. Does this mean he is a "bad" teacher?

The writer's example of the "bad" teacher is a perfect case of how people interpret things differently. It just happens that I had that political science professor, and would not only place him in my office in the halls, but also think that I think he is the best teacher I have had at Poly. I don't remember him as opin-ionated, but do remember his passion for world events and the desire to show his students the importance of those events. The writer said that all eyes are on him in class, and that is true - he commands attention because of his enthusiastic subject he teaches and the interesting personal experiences he relates.

I remember when my class was studying Russian-American relations and he shared with us how he felt when he was a captain in the intelligence sector when the USSR invaded Czechoslovakia. To illustrate the role of espionage and the trouble of "information overload," he told us how helpless he felt as stacks of paper with the reports of American spies came into the intelligence room. Only he and another professor were able to go through the information, leaving it to us to figure it out. He reminded him saying wistfully, "What if there was something in there that could have stopped the invasion?" It had been almost a year since I had that professor, but I can clearly remember his method of teaching, which I found very inspiring.

Maybe the writer's negative opinion of the professor who is "bad" is because the writer doesn't agree with him. He or she might not have been in the same class, or be the same student. As a journalism student, I am being taught to report facts impartially. But, as my journalism teachers have admitted, we are all biased in some way, leading to slightly slanted writing. This is because we are human and it is part of our nature to have our opinions. Differences make life exciting.

Karine Gambhir is a mechanical engineering senior.

The sleep deprived rantings of one crazy ex-smurf

KABIR GAMBHIR

Since I'm writing this thing with not even 20 hours of sleep for the last five days, I thought I would share that with whoever has felt the lack of care and eternal dreaminess I am in right now. It all started when I was a small smurf. I wasn't the average smurf - I was four apples high, not three.

I was wandering around the forest at about 3 a.m. and realized that I was lost. I couldn't find my way back to my little mushroom hut. Imagine what that must have felt like. I was blue, lost, hungry and I couldn't sleep because I wasn't in my little bed. I wandered and frolicked and skipped about 3 a.m. and realized that I was becoming a different creature of the forest. I was becoming a wild boar. Imagine what that must have felt like. I was pinkish brown, bristly and had two little horns growing out of my snout.

What a great life I had, wandering about and snorting and grunting, playing in the mud, running on all fours. As I floated through campus today, I experienced a sort of euphoria, but I felt very out of touch and distant from those around me. This was good,
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MISTER BOFFO
by Joe Martin

IN THE BLEACHERS
by Steve Moore

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1997

Techniques and the psychology of group dynamics.

"I enjoy the camaraderie and leadership with all the chances to learn and lead," Page said. Most military science courses are open to all students. Classes like orienteering, wilderness survival, and mountain training teach basic map reading, compass skills, rappelling and many more survival techniques. Students can enroll in military science for full academic credit without enrolling in the ROTC or incurring any military service obligation.

Most importantly what students will learn by participating in these courses is a unique respect for the armed services.

I would have never understood if I hadn't been involved last weekend.
Freshman walk-on makes difference for Poly

By Megan Lehtonen
Daily Staff Writer

When it comes to being an all-around athlete — Taryn Sperry has mastered the concept.

A member of the Cal Poly women's basketball team, the freshman walk-on has come from a long list of sports and record-breaking feats that seem almost unimaginable. The forward is currently leading the Mustangs in rebounds, averaging 5.8 per game, and 6.3 in the Big West Conference play.

Sperry practiced five hours a day, six days a week as a national gymnast. She trained from ages nine to fourteen and was recruited there to dive. "The coach said he wanted to work with me, so he put me on varsity," Sperry said. "I ended up sitting the bench the whole year, but that is when I learned the basics and fundamentals of basketball."

Once her junior year came around, she was a starter on the team. By the time she was a senior, she had broken a school record for most rebounds in a game (20). Following her junior year, she quit tennis to focus on diving and basketball, and was considering U.C. Berkeley for college after being recruited there to dive.

"I slacked on my decision for (U.C. Berkeley), so I decided to come to Cal Poly and dive here," she said.

When she got here, she decided that basketball would be a better opportunity for her, so she went to head coach Karen Booker and started to attend the open gym.

"At first, she didn't seem too interested in me," Sperry said. "The team had a lot of injuries so there were some spots open, but I wasn't sure of their level of play. I'm still young in my knowledge of basketball."

She didn't want to regret not trying out, so I guess I've found something to stick with," she added. "But gymnastics will always be my first love."

Coach Booker said that Sperry's drive for learning is amazing because she has the ability to pick up concepts immediately. She said Sperry is doing a tremendous job playing a role on the team as a good rebounder and an excellent defensive player.

"Taryn does a great job of leading by example," Booker said. "In early practices, you could see her athleticism. She is always giving her maximum effort."

Booker said Sperry earned her starting position midway through the season.

"I think gymnastics helped me with my ability to catch on," Sperry said. "I try to absorb everything the coach tells me."

Sperry is currently shooting 40 percent from the field and 87 percent from the free-throw line.

Sperry said her goal in the future is to gain more skills in the perimeter game. She added that she has been working on her dribbling skills to help with her outside game.

"I foresee Taryn being able to play the perimeter by her junior year," Booker said.

As for now, she said she's having fun and staying positive, despite the team's 3-15 record. Sperry enjoys the closeness that the team has with each other.

"Our team is like our own little family," Sperry said. "Taryn is always doing her job," Bauer said. "She is one of the best teammates I have had in my 11 years of playing basketball."

No agreement reached between baseball players and umpires

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Baseball's contentious umpires, players and owners didn't achieve any breakthroughs during their six-hour meeting Tuesday, instead setting up a task force to examine their differences.

Major League Baseball

Several participants said each side "vented" during the discussion, which included two players, three umpires, two general managers, both league presidents and acting commissioner Bud Selig. While the talk got heated at times, it remained civil, according to people in the meeting who spoke on the condition they not be identified.

You kind of have to lay your cards on the table and we did," New York Yankees pitcher David Cone said.

There will be more meetings of this nature, probably on a smaller scale. We're not going to solve all the problems of the world in one day," Selig called for the meeting after umpires, angry over the Roberto Alomar spit-gate last September, attempted to strike the postseason only to be stopped by a federal judge.

Alomar, Baltimore's All-Star second baseman, was suspended for five games after spitting at umpire John Hirschbeck on the final weekend of the season. Umpires wanted a longer suspension and wanted Alomar to serve the penalty during the playoffs rather than during the first week of the 1997 season.

"We had a full and frank discussion, with the views of all parties being fully aired. We're not going to solve all the problems of the world in one day," Selig called for the meeting after umpires, angry over the Roberto Alomar spit-gate last September, attempted to strike the postseason only to be stopped by a federal judge.

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"We had a full and frank discussion, with the views of all parties being fully aired," Selig said. "We believe that this meeting has been productive and holds out the hope for future progress in developing better relationships among all parties."