WEEKEND IN THE ARMY

BY KIM KANEY
DAILY STAFF WRITER

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.

I 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 Tallentire, 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, toothbrush, a brush, change of socks, and other personal items I never should have brought. They were just extra weight. Besides my pack, I was wearing my vest that held two full canteens 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 Sheaffer, practices a still-breathing drill for accurate shooting.
Biscuit rolled off the table and kicked a friend of mine. Oh how I wanna go, but they won't let me go.

My battle buddy, Cadet Ty Shepard was the first time I used the bath-

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We gathered up our weapons and our racks and marched down to

Next, they were going to teach us offense and defense strategy and

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Although this was just a strategy test, tension still filled the air; the
everyone could be anywhere.

At that point I felt like I was in hell.

So far the day had just seemed like

organizing 50 people to do this cor-

rectly in the dark takes good leaders-

ship and guidance. I got frustrated and I'm sure others did too. But
everyone helped until it was done. So far the day had just seemed like
camp, but at that point I felt like I was in hell.

After camp setup, we marched out for our last activity, night land

Before I knew it, it was 5 a.m.

and it was time for lights out.

The food was warm and tasted

pretty good, probably because we

were all so hungry. We had 11 min-
utes to eat and use the latrine. That

was the first time I used the bath-

room all day and I would only get
two more chances during the rest of
the weekend.

The most unique part of the
weekend came after dinner. I tried
my hand at the "pig."

"It's the most fun you'll ever have with your pants on," shouted

one cadet as I lay on the ground

groping the M-60. After a few mis-

fires I finally get the weapon to go

off.

We gathered up our weapons and our racks and marched down to our
bivouac, campsite for the night.

After the fight was over, we

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Changing of the guard could mean changes in county board priorities

By Brian Johnson
Daily News

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 5-2 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 favors more towards growth or the environment based on campaign rhetoric, though.

"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 to judge," 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 economics 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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An information session on Sony is scheduled for Monday evening, February 10.

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OUT THE WINDOW

Defending the green

Foad Krissood

I was amused by Kurt Horner's open display of unambiguously selfish ignorance displayed on yester-
day's opinion page. "Building a better planet through theft" was accurately titled inasmuch as it aptly described an egoist's excuse for pushing his corporate buddies, (all of whom have their own personal agendas on others. I suppose it's easy for Horner to sit back and watch the planet be destroyed and philosophy about what way he wants to see tipped up Mother Nature and her resources between his corporate buddies, (all of whom have complex agendas for their own) and are willing-
cut profits to help it. I'm sure.

Horner's argument is twofold. At one level, he's critiquing Mustang Daily's publication of the "Green Issue," and accusing the paper of being "biased" towards an alleged pole. On the other hand, he's using his first point to jump into what he really wants to talk about: the virtues of private ownership.

On the first point, I have to first congratulate everyone who helped put the Green Issue together on a job well done. It should be obvious that Mustang Daily has a duty to report the public reflection is overwhelmingly in favor of public ownership.

As far as the push for private property rights goes, Horner does an incredible job of almost filling an entire page. A good point and anything we didn't already know and experience. In describing the so-called "tragedy of commons," Homer fails to see the only incentive any industry would have in preserving anything is money, not the envi-
ronment. I think a la Olson, have the "incentive" to preserve it's own business operations above anything else, could be better described as "selfish" and itself and then pollute the hell out of it whenever it wants to.

From another point of view, what Homer describes as a reality right now. The theory of a "multiple" owners are everyone, represented by the gov-
ernment and they ARE pursuing a lawsuit against Unocal except that the incentive is to preserve the environment not to make more cash. And at the same time some non-governmental groups are also suing Unocal because of damages they received.

Horner equates government regulatory actions with stealing. A comparison as typical of an anthropo-
centric mind set determined to think of every-
thing as "property," somewhere "owned" by some human. What right does a private property owner have to disrupt the air and water systems we all live in by polluting that property. What right does he/she have to destroy the biological food chains that affect us in so many ways miles outside of the property, now and in the future? What right do they have to "own" a piece of earth?

Anyway, I think that was enough rufusation for one day. I'll save this for later. For now I think I'll continue to recuperate from the longest weekend of my life which started by the biggest screwup of my life. You see, if you look down further you see my name next to "information technology" which is kind of a confusing way of saying "computer repair man." And effectively that's the concept I altered my name next to "information technology" which is just can't live without cheating your- self out of a true education, I hear the University of California at Santa Cruz has a gradeless program they might want to check out. Oh yeah, Santa Cruz's mascot - not a powerful mustang - but an awfully cute slug.

As Cal Poly says, "So long," to credit/no credit grading, don't frown, we are actually taking a step in the right direction. The elimination will force students to spend more time with their books, which is why we're all here, but a little less time with our dear friend, Jack Daniels. Alan Dunston is a journalism junior and Daily staff writer.

IN YOUR WORDS

If you could use the Force for anything, what would it be?

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

"To turn myself into Jimi Hendrix." Ryan Vernazza, English sophomore.

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

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

"To be able to spread my music." Vanessa Virie, Liberal studies junior.
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 bad or good instructor. Instead of explaining what she means by "good" and "bad," she assumes that these adjectives have some universal meaning. These two words mean different things on an individual basis. The professor who is "bad" to one student could be considered "good" 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? Wikipedia defines a fact as "something put forward as objectively real." In the context of Monday's opinion, good and bad things put forward as objectively real. 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 opinions 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 real opinion) to generate response from the class. The ethics impartial teacher I had at Poly was an ethnic studies professor who presented multiple views, including his own. Does this mean he is a "bad" teacher?

She 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 opinions to generate response from the class. The ethics impartial teacher I 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 category, but would think that I think is the best teacher I have had at Poly. I don't remember him as opinionated, 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 enthusiasm for the 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 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 he felt as stacks of paper with the reports of American spies came into the intelligence room. Only he and another man were able to go through the information, learning of it unusually. He remembered saying wistfully, "What if there was something in there that could have stopped the invasion?" It has 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 an individual teacher could be a case of a self-proclaimed partier such as herself. Maybe she is letting her own personal views impede hearing her teacher's real words. Maybe she should appreciate that if she disagrees with something he says, instead of being "too afraid to say anything for fear of jeopardizing her grade," he did lower the grade of someone who challenged him, then maybe she should justify calling him a "bad" teacher. Megan Long is a journalism sophomore and Daily staff writer.

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

I was sorry to hear about Shoshana Hebshi's unfortunate birthday party crashers. Nevertheless, somehow she seemed quite ignorant of keep my disturbances in mind for a self-proclaimed partier such as herself. She said, speaking of the party crashers, "Next time you go to a party uninvited, keep my disturbance in mind, and think twice before you crash." Well, maybe Shoshana is an experienced bartender, but I can't help but ask, WHO CAN THINK TWICE WHEN DRUNK OFF HIS/HER ASS?! A better suggestion might be to think twice before deciding to go out and act like an idiot...I mean, get drunk. The sad thing, in my opinion, is that people do...Shawn Dunning

Speech communications junior

Editor,

I like to respond to the article about "bad" instructor categories, but would say that I think he is the best teacher I have had at Poly. I don't remember him as opinionated, but do remember his passion for world events and the desire to show his students the importance of time events. The writer said that all eyes are on him in class, and that is true – he commands attention because of his enthusiasm for the subject he teaches and the interesting personal experiences he relates.

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KABIR GAMBRH

The sleep deprived rantings of one crazy ex-smurf

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 whomever has felt the lack of care and eternal dreaminess I am in right now. It all started when I was a little smurf. I wasn't the average smurf, I was four apples high, not three.

I could not find my way home, and being lost forever and ever, I began to become like my surroundings, and started to look like my surroundings. This was good. 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 bluenose, hungry and I couldn't sleep because I wasn't in my little bed. I wandered and frolicked and skipped and did not sleep. I could not find my way home, and being lost forever and ever, I began to become like my surroundings, and started to look like my surroundings. This was good.

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MUSTANG DAILY

ROTC from page 1

"It's a great adventure," said Cadet Nwabueze Okebata, industrial engineering junior. "I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world." According to Capt. Brian Page there are about 495,000 people in the active army.

Cal Poly's ROTC program has been rated as one of the top in the nation out of 343 schools. At a field-training competition in November, Cal Poly placed second, losing out to Brigham Young University, the champions for six years running.

The army isn't all fighting. For each combat position there are six to 10 non-combat jobs that support that person. The most important idea the military science department classes teach is leadership, said Page. This includes management, motivation and psychology of group dynamics.

"I enjoy the camaraderie and leadership with all the chances to learn and teach," Page said.

Most military science courses are open to all students. Classes like orienteering, wilderness survival, and mountaineering 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 Locktece  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 nationally-competitive gymnast when she was nine years old, working towards the dream of competing in the 1996 Olympics. But after she realized that her height would make it impossible for her to compete internationally (Sperry was involved in a controversial issue of whether or not they would raise the high bar for her), she decided to quit at the age of fourteen.

"I’m 5-feet 9-inches tall now, and back then the tallest girl competing was 5 feet 4-inches tall," Sperry said. "I had a lot of injuries due to my height in gymnastics, so I decided to use it to my advantage."

And what a good decision it was.

When Sperry began at Ursuline High School in Santa Rosa, Calif., she wanted to play tennis, dove and play basketball.

Tennis was no problem. She played at the No. 1 spot her freshman year. But she was too scared to tryout for basketball because she said she didn’t even know how to do a lay-up. She thought diving would be fun and competitive because of its similarity with gymnastics, and, apparently, she was right. Her freshman year, she placed in the final round of the North Coast Section (her school’s league). It wasn’t until her sophomore year that she got the nerve to try out for basketball.

"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 sucked 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 gyms.

"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 a sure of their level of play. I’m still young in my knowledge of basketball."

I 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 the best example."

Booke 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 a lot more 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. She enjoys the closeness that the team has with each other.

"Our team is like our own little family," Sperry said. 

**The Cal Poly baseball team takes on Patten College today at 3 p.m. at Sinsehimer Park.**

The Mustangs are coming off a weekend sweep of St. Mary’s College. On Sunday, second baseman Scott Kidd hit the game-winning home run in the bottom of the ninth to seal the victory and the sweep for the Mustangs.

**Notes**

Call the sports hotline for the most up-to-date scores and highlights for all Cal Poly sports.

**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 "ventured" 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 spitting incident 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 15 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," 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."

By Ronald Hoon  Associated Press

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