Picketing for recognition

Department secretaries have twice been denied raises, reclassification

By Ryan Becker
Daily Jeff Writer

Cal Poly departmental secretaries were joined Monday by faculty and staff during a meeting with Provost Kenneth Starr on Monday to protest a decision not to reclassify the secretaries. The decision was made by Provost Starr and the Director of Human Resources, Joel Epstein.

Although the secretaries filed the grievance together, Epstein said each secretary is individually evaluated for reclassification.

"We realize that all of them may not get reclassified," Epstein said. "But it's about a lot more than money. It's recognition of the work they do."

Epstein said no employees at the department level are classified as administrative operations analysts. Currently positions in administrative offices such as dean and provost employ administrative operations analysts.

"We realize that all of them may not get reclassified," Epstein said. "But it's about a lot more than money. It's recognition of the work they do."

Epstein said 48 of 51 department heads sent a letter to administration officials to show their support for the secretaries.

"I'd 'Bet' Heesch, graphic communica- tion department head, put the picket line Monday. "You have to support the issues," Heesch said. "The secretaries do more than what they are compensated for."

Heesch said many department heads rely heavily on the secretaries.

"I know many department heads wouldn't take on so much if it wasn't for the secretaries," Heesch said. "I see that every day."
Under the Avila sands: Unocal's buried burden

Unocal's long history with Avila Beach may seem like it's coming to an end with the dismantling of the tank farm which sat on a hill on the outskirts of the town, but its presence will be felt for years to come. According to a study local has been monitoring, a plume of contamination beneath Front Street and the beach, where contamination has been found under the tank farm has persisted.

Cal Poly students and professors have been working with Unocal for a few months to test methods which would help speed up the process of biodegrading the petroleum. Cal Poly Biological Science professors Paul Cane and Christopher Kitts, environmental engineer professor Nirupam Pal and other professors teamed up to form the Institute of Environmental Biology Technology in 1996. The group approached Unocal to see if it was interested in funding research on Guadalupe Dunes. In addition to the funding given toward the Dunes project, Unocal gave them a grant to test biosparging techniques on the contaminated soil of Avila Beach. Biosparging speeds up the natural processes that break down biodegradable materials by pumping oxygen underground. Kitts said microbiology and environmental engineering students have been conducting a column study of the contamination for two months. The biosparging test is done on a tube filled with Avila's soil.

"We are spending time looking at the bacteria that degrade petroleum and counting and identifying them," Kitts said.

The students are being paid to help with the research through Unocal's grant. Ryan Short, a microbiology student working on the project, said, "we are adding oxygen to the soil to increase the number of bacteria which increases decompensation."

"We are seeing results. Forty to 50 percent of the petroleum is gone," said Kitts. He estimated that the study will take from eight months to a year to complete. "I think it will work. It is a long-term method but it is better for the environment than excavation," Short said.

A HISTORY OF POLLUTION

On its web site, Unocal claims full responsibility for the contamination in Avila Beach. Unocal is currently working to remove the tank farm in order to help "the looks and improve property value in Avila Beach," said Donny Lamb, Unocal's manager of Avila Beach Affairs.

According to Lamb, Unocal hopes to have the tanks removed by the middle of May. A site study submitted by Unocal to the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board stated that enough oil products have leaked over the years so that now almost a foot of prepacks-tissue paper sits on top of the ground water at some places on the tank farm site.

In a recent Telegram-Tribune article, David Church, the county's Avila Beach planner, said "no conclusions have been drawn yet, but it looks fairly serious."

Lamb said Unocal has put an underground wall around the tank farm to make sure that contamination does not spread from the site. Unocal will be doing further site assessment.

Last May, the Board of Supervisors ordered a county study local has been monitoring, a plume of contamination beneath Front Street and the beach, where contamination has been found under the tank farm has persisted.

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By Alicia Kasselbich Daily Staff Writer

San Luis Obispo Mayor Allen Sellett has criticized Unocal and its role in the polluting of Avila Beach.

"I can't believe that Unocal would not check out the lines for contamination before there were regulations," he said. "Avila Beach has essentially become a toxic waste dump."

Lamb said Unocal transferred 125 miles of its oil pipelines in the county to Tosco Corp., an oil company that purchases oil from other companies and then refines and markets it. Tosco Corp. has bought the rights to use the "9X" name and logo.

Going beyond the requirements of the state fire marshal, Unocal, Unocal's former pipeline company which was sold to Tosco Corp., has agreed to thoroughly check the pipelines to test for leaks and weak spots as a precautionary procedure which will help prevent further contamination. Anything found in the inspections will be reported to the county.

WHAT ABOUT THE PLUME?

Lamb said the plume of contamination is not mobile; it won't spread to other areas. It is contained under Front Street and the beach. Unocal added 6,500 tons of commercial sand to Avila Beach this winter. This was done to create a buffer of sand between the ocean and the contamination under the beach. The sand
Eastern Europe summer study opportunity

The University of New Orleans is announcing its 23rd annual UNO-Europ(>an guest lectures, hike in the Alps or ski the nearby glaciers. The 1998 session runs from duly 5 to Aug. 15.

A new four-week Prague Summer Seminar is also being offered this summer.

For information about either program, call the UNO Division of International education at (504) 280-7116 or send email to info@past.uno.edu.

The Division also has information on these programs and other international study and travel options at http://www.uno.edu/~in.st/Welcome.html.

“Real Men” needed for assault education program

A new program, called “Real Men,” sponsored by the S.A.F.E.R. Program and Student Affairs Division, aims to educate the university and surrounding community on rape and sexual assault.

“Real Men” will honor men who have innovative and imaginative thoughts on how to end sexual violence at Cal Poly and around the world. Cal Poly “Real Men” are individuals who respect the fact that sex should be “shared, not taken.” Also, “Real Men” understand that everyone should be treated equally without regard to race, sex or sexual orientation.

Interested men need to submit applications by Jan. 30 to Peer Health Education. Winners will have their pictures put on posters, that are distributed throughout campus, along with personal quotes.

Peer Health Education is located downstairs in the Health Center, room 10.

Questions? Call 756-5939

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Date Time Location
Monday, January 26 7 p.m. Sierra Madre Hall
Wednesday, January 28 7 p.m. Muir Hall
Tuesday, February 3 7 p.m. Tenaya Hall
Wednesday, February 4 7 p.m. UU Room 219
Thursday, February 5 7 p.m. Santa Lucia Hall
Monday, February 9 3 p.m. UU Room 219
Wednesday, February 11 3 p.m. Career Center
Thursday, February 12 10 a.m. UU Room 219
9 p.m. Yosemite Hall

Questions? Contact Housing and Residential Life staff at 756-1226 or talk to any RA or CSD!
I want to share with you my views about Prop 209 and the recent attempts to stop its further implementation. But before I do that let me say that the first EDWORDS column (the campus dining cleanliness issue) created an incredible response and since its publication I have met with the Campus Dining board and have joined the student dining committee in an effort to improve the situation at Campus Dining. Rest assured I will continue to push for the best cleanliness standards.

Now on to bigger and better things. Prop 209 allows all Affirmative Action voters to end all Affirmative Action programs in places such as Cal Poly and other universities including UCLA. Berkeley. Why did we vote yes on this proposition? Because no one likes to be discriminated against. Go back to the Civil Rights movement and look at Dr. Martin Luther King. He would be turning over in his grave if he knew that discrimination was taking place on a daily basis. Hence the word WAS Prop 209 has ended all gender and racial preferences and finally equality is beginning to shine through a thick cloud cover of discrimination.

Last weekend there was a rally at UCLA to fight back at Prop 209 and push for its repeal. Wait, hang on a minute and let me get this straight. They are screaming "YES WE NEED DISCRIMINATION TO KEEP US IN SCHOOL." How is that fair? Why is it that some people are degenerate with a 2.0 GPA in high school will get into a school like Berkeley while someone with a 3.8 will be rejected? I'll tell you what we need to get is AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. Whether that slacker was a man or a woman or a Spaniard or an African American or an Eskimo, or a white person, who cares; because of something he has or has not over this race he is given preferential treatment. Affirmative Action is just a Eugenism for discrimination because no one wants to hear DISC-RIM-

ACTION. It is much easier to say and doesn't present any controversy.

Finally, colleges in particular, are being forced to be fair. They have to accept students based on their test scores and not on their RACE and it is more than high time.

The current fight against 209 is the same as the enormous legal battles that went on with the attempt to implement Prop. 145. (The illegal immigrants being cut off for ben-

efits) Please don't get me wrong, I am always for change. But once again the people of this great state have spoken and once again there is a fight against the majority. If I could justify discrimination then I would be by side with fighters of this proposition. But I would not and no way do I support this or even have a 3.8 GPA. The secretaries are lettered and the secretaries' only forum for making such strong demands. Their job contracts specifically prevent them from striking.

We at Mustang Daily find it interesting, and a bit sad, that the inspiration and passion to organize a picket - or any sort of protest promoting change - comes from staff rather than students. Granted, we're not U.C. Berkeley during the sixties, but a little social activism never hurt anybody.

**OPINION**

**STAFF EDITORIAL**

Heh hath no fury like a secretary scored.

Departmental secretaries began picketing yesterday and if their demands aren't met, they'll do it all week. They're asking to be recognized as "administrative operations analysts," plus a raise to go with the new title.

Make no mistake about it: It's high time for the job reclassification. It is the departmental "secretaries" who are called when students have questions about curriculum and their advisors don't know the answers. Many departmental secretaries are better-versed in university policy than professors. The term secretary implies typing up memos and making lunch reservations for the boss. It is outdated.

The secretaries filed a gender-bias grievance that was twice turned down by Cal Poly officials, which is what prompted the picket in the first place. Society associates women with secretarial duties. All 39 departmental secretaries are women and we doubt this issue would have reached the picket stage if even one of the secretaries were a man.

The secretaries' second demand is the pay raise that would accompany the new job descriptions.

The difference between a departmental secretary's base salary and an administrative operations analyst's is $540 a month. This is admittedly a huge increase, while job duties have not been measurably changed. The truth is, these women have been performing above their job description for years, and the raise will simply bring them up to speed.

As for the raise being retroactive for five years - let's not go overboard. Ladies, if you wanted it five years ago, you should have asked for it then.

After the second rejection of their grievance, a lunchtime picnic is the secretaries' only forum for making such strong demands. Their job contracts specifically prevent them from striking.

We at Mustang Daily find it interesting, and a bit sad, that the inspiration and passion to organize a picket - or any sort of protest promoting change - comes from staff rather than students.
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PICKET from page 1
know I couldn't do what I do.

Jennifer Henderson, physical education junior, also marched in the line.

"Everyone has to be treated with respect," Henderson said. "They need to be recognized."

Vicki Stover, associate vice president of administration and finance, conducted the second level of review. Stover said contract agreements prevented her from commenting on specifics of the grievance.

"The grievance says there has been a misinterpretation of the secre-

HWY 46 from page 1
said Scott Eades, associate transportation planner with SLOCOG.

The 18-mile stretch from Airport Road to just east of Almond-River Grove Drive would be widened with the funds.

If the project is funded, construction would be tentatively set for the middle of 2005.

Eades said adding the extra lanes would lower the risk of head-on collisions. He said passing slow cars can be a problem, especially with tense drivers.

Hwy. 46 is also a recommended trucking route, which Eades said contributes to the danger.

Since the Fairbanks' accident in 1995, several improvements to the

CLINTON from page 1
weasel words.

Lewinsky, 24, told a friend she had an affair with Clinton but later denied the claim in an affidavit.

She spent several hours Monday with her attorneys, both at her Watergate apartment and a Wal lawyer office.

Starr's team met into the evening to consider Ginsburg offer and prepare to question witnesses Tuesday in front of a federal grand jury.

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TUESDAY, J ANUARY 27, 1998
Bird will coach East NBA All-Stars

By Steve Harmon
Assistant Pais

INDIANAPOLIS — Larry Bird, the Boston Celtics' coach, changed his plans for a Florida vacation and said Monday he will coach the East in the NBA All-Star game.

Bird was a 12-time All-Star with the Boston Celtics but said he had no desire to coach in the Feb. 6 game in New York. The Pacers' Larry O'Brien, the coaching honor for him by compiling the best record in the Eastern Conference as of Sunday's cutoff date.

"I will always honor to go and represent the Indiana Pacers, no question about that. Hopefully, I'll have a few of my players going with me," Bird said after practice Monday. "Being from a small market team, I think we don't get a lot of press. I think it would be good for all of us if I went and participated in it."

Pacers assistant coaches Dick Harter and Rick Carlisle will assist Bird in the All-Star game.

The starting lineup for the Eastern and Western conference teams were announced by the league Sunday. The remaining seven members of each team will be selected this week by the coaches in each conference. The Pacers' Greg Miller and Ek Smits were considered to have good shots at making the East team and Mark Jackson an outside chance.

The Pacers (29-13) are a half-game behind the Chicago Bulls (30-13) in the Central Division standings. The Pacers have a 15-15 percentage, the determining factor in the selection of the All-Star coaches.

"I would enjoy a few days off, but that would be selfish of me," Bird said. "I represent the Indiana Pacers and I should go. I am very honored."