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The myth of the four year
institution explored.

Cover Photo by Kasha Kessler

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from the editor

You've probably read stories in past issues of Outpost and thought you could do better. Well, now's your chance. If you haven't already heard, we're sponsoring a writing and photography contest with lots of prizes. There are professional judges and everyone is invited to enter. But you had better hurry because the deadline is February 1. Come into the Journalism Office and staff members will be glad to give you details of the contest.

The staff will also be glad to get your ideas for our new column - Polygraft. What's it all about? Well, I'm sure there are lots of times when you've heard rumors and wondered how much truth there was to them. Outpost does a lot of wondering, too, and we decided to do something about it. We did some investigating

and checking and found some interesting answers to the disappearance of Pacific Stereo.

The answers are in this week's column. And other future columns will deal with the topics of computer registration hassles and possibly the parking problem. Any other subjects? Leave us a note in the Polygraft box on the Outpost desk.

Also, don't forget to check out our new music column - Audio Delights. It'll keep you up on the latest in the music world.

You won't want to miss upcoming issues. If you have trouble finding one around, just call Carson at 544-1678 and he'll dig one up for you. He specializes in that type of thing.

Ellen Pensky, editor

POLYGRAFF

It was just a short while ago that I was truckin' through the downstairs part of the union, listening to the distant blaze of rock from the building's intercom when I passed the stereo shop and received a shock. Halting cold in my tracks as if someone had slammed a door in my face, I spied another new sign in the shop window. But this one was different from the others. Plastered to the glass door, it announced, "WE'RE MOVING! CONTACT US AT OUR DOWNTOWN OFFICE." A darkened, empty store loomed in the background. My jaw dropped — the shop had disintegrated altogether.

Pacific Stereo, owned by Pacific Electronics, which in turn is owned by CBS broadcasting network, is the No. 1 dealer in high-fidelity electronic equipment. The company is a chain market, commanding 24 stores throughout California from its headquarters in Emeryville, near Sacramento.

Only nine months ago did Pacific Stereo decide to offer records as a complimentary attraction to the hi-fi equipment. Mark Fagerburg, former manager of the University Union branch now working at the downtown store (782 Higuera St.), shrugged his shoulders and explained, "Both the decision to add and to take away the records were made at the executive level, before any individual stores had a chance to react."

"Pacific Stereo was hit by the economic crunch just like everybody else," Fagerburg went on, scratching his beard while emphasizing, "though that had little to do with decision. The records were moved out mainly because they were diverting our attention from the stereo equipment, which is our principle concern. I was constantly having to write out tags when I knew there were people waiting around, wanting to ask questions about systems."

Fagerburg clarified the sudden disappearance of the Cal Poly Store as he switched on different pairs of speakers for interested listeners. "The governing executives realized that the Union shop just couldn't hold its own financially. It was obvious that we weren't going to experience a \$500 sale from a student every afternoon, so to speak. Without the records it was a hopeless cause."

Students had mixed reactions to Pacific Stereo's housecleaning enterprise, but most felt basically discontent about the action. Junior Chuck deGarmo, an ornamental horticulture and landscape architecture major, remarked, "It was nice having records so near, but Pacific was too small a shop to have a good selection."

Although deGarmo enjoyed Pacific Stereo's competitive prices, freshman Don Kubler, an agricultural business major, waited too long to even get his chance at a bargain. "The one time I decided to buy an album there, I ran down and the records had disappeared," mused Kubler, looking up from an agribusiness text and setting aside a pair of headphones out of which a chorus of hard rock roared. "I had to go downtown to get it and it was really inconvenient. Reflections like these have come from the mouths of many students who favored Pacific Stereo's good prices and nearby locality."

But those unaware of the store's departure from the Union building do double-takes in surprise when seeing the empty shop. "Moved? Gad, I was just in there a couple of days ago and now they're gone," sighed a passing, book-laden co-ed.



From the bumper in the summer department (and it ain't even spring), the real Fleetwood Mac has called it quite once again. What's worse, however, is the fact that they were scheduled to appear here at old Cal Poly on February 2.

Word has it that Robert Welch has left the group but no reasons were available. Welch was a key member of the band in both the vocal and songwriting aspects.

Honk, a group that has spent the past four years playing music to the beach crowd in and around Laguna Beach, had the capacity crowds stomping for more as they ended their first week — long engagement Saturday night at the Troubadour.

The standing-room-only crowd was made up mostly of young, excited, "decked-out for the occasion" beach people. It seems the group has some sort of oceanic flavor that fits right in with the sun, sand and surf. Honk did prove to hold these qualities, yet went beyond that to display some of the finest and refreshing new aspects in rock today.

Their set started out with a tasty rendition of an Old Duke Ellington tune. Before the evening was over they covered everything from the "Five Stories" classic, "Made My Statement" to their latest single, "Hesitation", and even came back with a romping rendition of "Heat Wave" for the third encore.

Honk displays a stage presence that has an audience feeling good and bumpin' in no time at all. Through combining a mixture of their older songs, those off their new Epic LP and rearrangements of other artists' work, Honk is definitely proving to be one of the most progressive and dynamic groups in today's music world.

The A.S.I. Special Events Committee has a treat that can't be beat on Sunday evening, Mar. 2. This evening of coffeehouse entertainment will feature some of San Luis Obispo's finest talent.

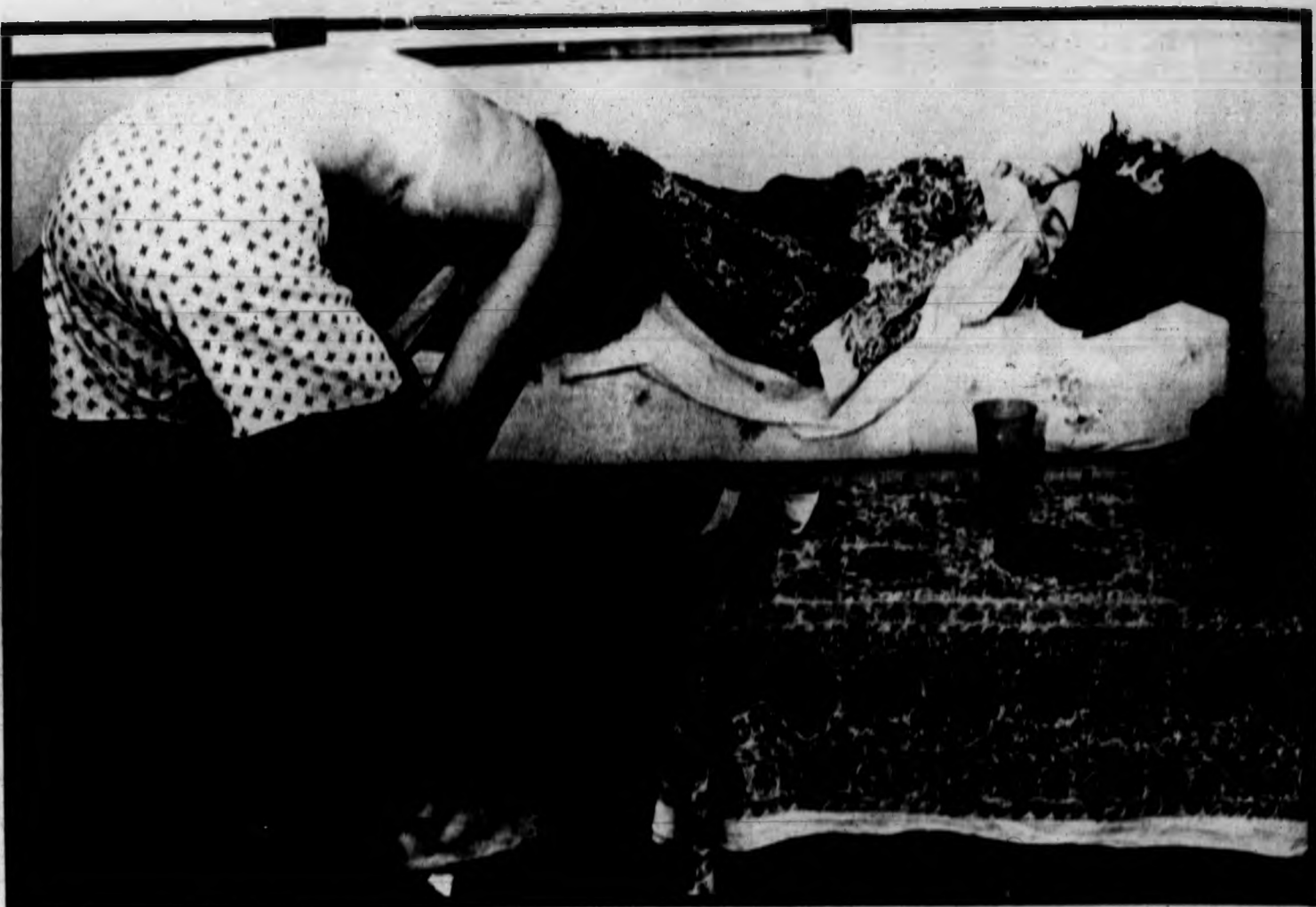
Mike Sheehy and Kathy Proebstel, both fine singers and songwriters will each do a set of their own, as well as an appearance by John Harvey who plays improvisational piano.

Tenatively scheduled for the evening are two ladies from New Jersey; Maggie and Terri Roache. Paul Simon discovered these two while they were attending his songwriting class at a New York university.

The Roache Sisters will have their first album out on Columbia sometime in late February. The album was produced by Paul Simon.

GETTING INTO BEDS BEDS BEDS BEDS BEDS BEDS

by Corinne Bayless
photos by Richard Hess



Brad closed his engineering book and leaned sideways to kiss Sheila on her neck. He anxiously left his studies on the desk and headed for his nightly duties in the bathroom. Sheila placed her book on the shelf. She disrobed and eased her fatigued body between the sheets on the tranquil water bed. Brad urged the bed's roll and away as he slipped in beside Sheila.

The warm, flexible bed enhanced their sexual desires. The water rocked as a sea in stormy weather while Sheila and Brad touched upon their every erotic fantasy. The rocking motion slowed as they relaxed from their efforts.

The water bed is the latest rage in sleep and lovemaking comfort. The sleep experts claim you gain perfect support from a water bed. It contours to the exact shape of your body, whether sleeping or making love.

A water bed is simply a plastic bag filled with water and enclosed in a frame of wood. The bag costs about \$30. A tightly filled water bag is hard, unyielding, and does not lend to the feeling of floating on water. If the bag is slack, a hammock effect is created; the mid-body, which is the heaviest, sinks, with the head and feet rising to higher points.

If you sleep on a water bed that is colder than the body there is a marked chilling effect. An over-heating effect is created if the bed's temperature is above that of the body.

To regulate the temperature, a heater is advisable for about \$50. One of the water bed's disadvantages is that if the electricity fails or the heater gets turned off, icicles may form on your body before morning! It takes the heater at least two days to warm the bed to a comfortable sleeping temperature.

Lynn Burnell, a recent convert to a water bed said, "I fall asleep faster, wake up more refreshed and actually need less sleep. One of the best things," she continued, "is that my arms don't fall asleep during the night." Water beds prevent the concentration of pressure against the bony prominences of the body by evenly distributing the occupant's weight.

Physical therapist K. It Stamp explains, "Quadruplegics use water beds to reduce ulcer pressure." Ulcers are external sores caused by a lack of circulation that patients have when lying in bed for extended periods of time. "If you have a low back problem it would not be good if you slept on your stomach," cautioned K. It. The body's mid-section sinks more on a water bed and this tends to increase the curvature of the low back area when lying on your stomach.

Furry bedspreads and water beds with fancy leather-bound frames are offered at the House of Water Beds at

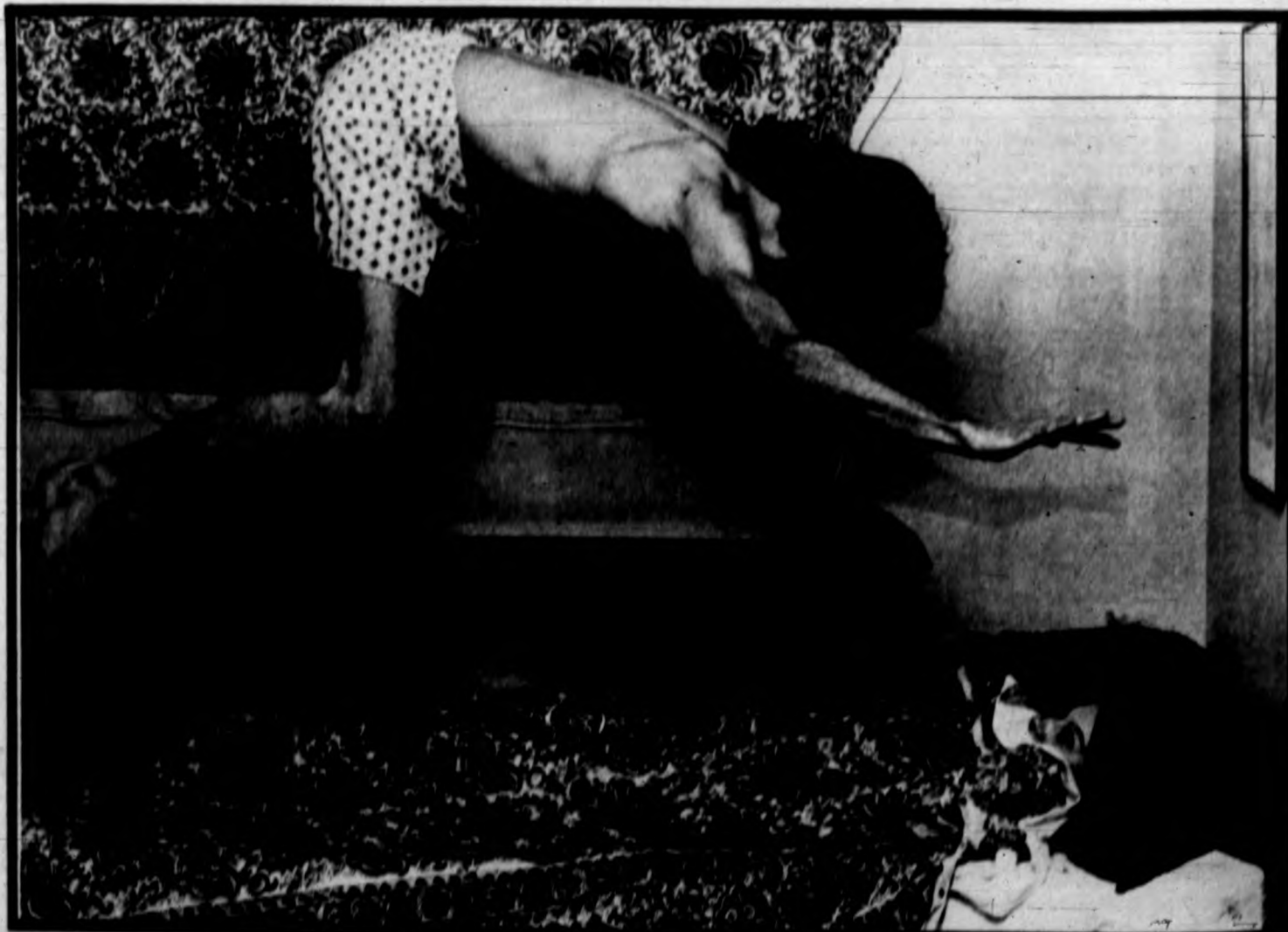
1459 Monterey St. Beds there are priced from \$229 to \$419, including frames. The water beds come in twin, double, queen and king sizes, just like regular beds. Most students find it more feasible to make their own frames. The House of Water Beds offers special contour water bed sheets from \$28 to \$35.

Before water beds were the lovemaking rage, brass beds held many newlyweds. Brass beds were manufactured between 1880 and 1910. They were decorative and also hygienic. The bed bugs couldn't live in the brass fittings like they could in the wooden bed frames.

Brass beds now cost between \$300 and \$400. The price depends upon the condition, age, ornateness of the frame. The brass bed is now a sought after antique.

If you can't find an antique and a waterbed is too expensive, try a used mattress. Peter Canvel's Used Furniture and Antiques at 1302 Ocas St. has used mattresses costing from \$25 to \$45. Headboard and frame prices vary.

To test a second-hand mattress for firmness Canvel suggested standing the mattress on one end, then stretching out your arms and pressing in the middle. Canvel said, "Your hands shouldn't touch through the material. Most people don't know how to buy a second hand bed. They end up with a soggy bed."



"The buyer should be sure the springs on the box springs aren't broken, especially the boards on the underside," emphasizes Canvel. A second-hand mattress must be sterilized before you buy it. A yellow tag insures the mattress has been sterilized. And who knows, you may find someone's forgotten treasure tucked away inside.

The Nearly New Furniture Store at 1301 Broad St. offers a variety of new and used beds. The innovation chest or captain's bed has five drawers underneath the mattress in which to store your prized possessions. It's almost as good as having your valuables under your pillow.

If you want to be on top of your studies, even while you sleep, here's the bed for you; the bunk is on the top and underneath there is a desk. There are shelves located between the bunk and desk. The price is \$40 at the Nearly New Furniture Store. The store also offers new and used mattresses beginning at \$14.50.

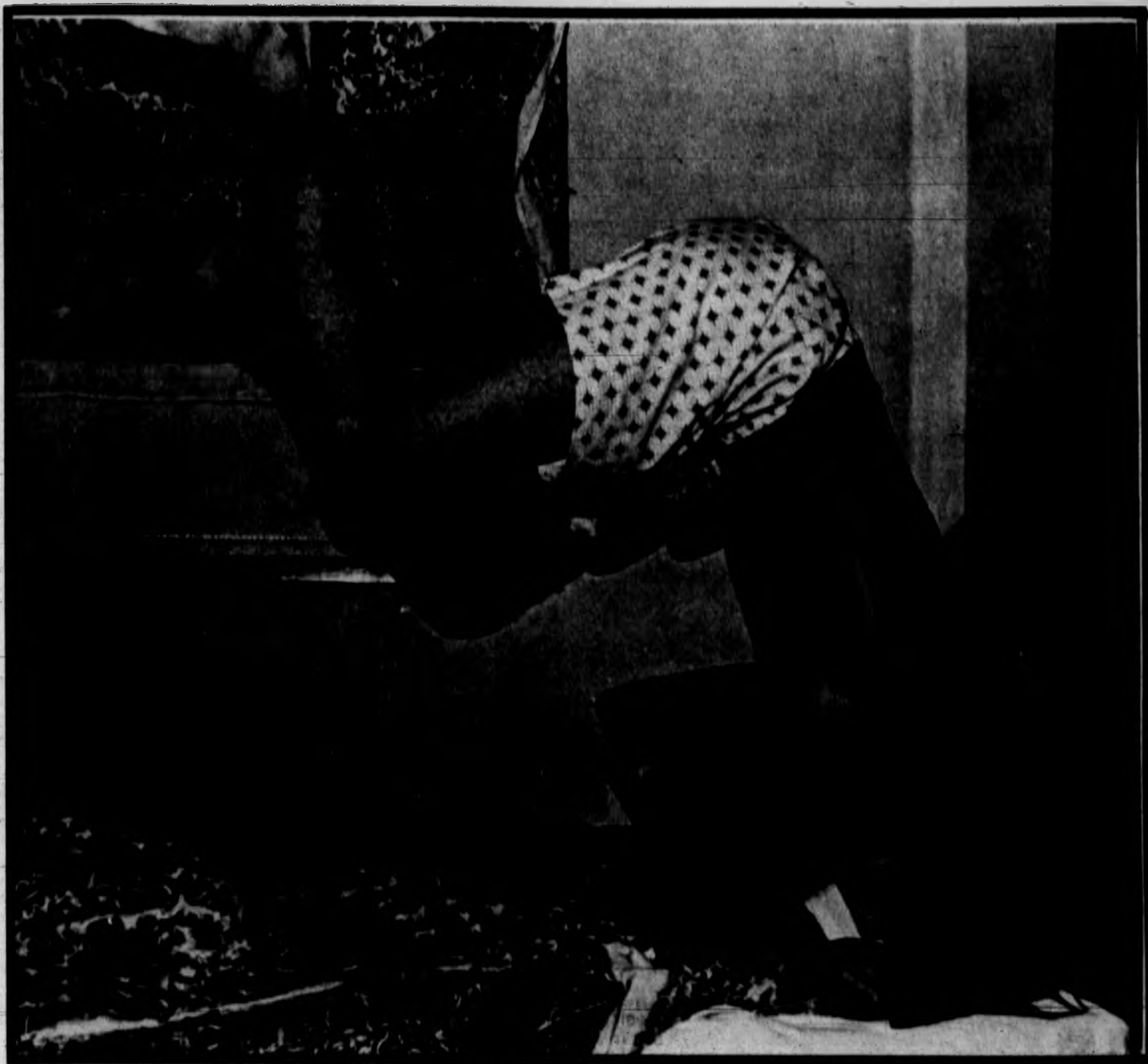
Today's beds are a great improvement over the ancient Roman mattresses stuffed with reeds, hay, wool, or feathers. Roy Platt, manager at Baker Brothers Furniture Store in downtown San Luis Obispo said, "The cost of a bed is determined by the quality of construction." This includes ticking, which is the outside covering, and the thickness of the foam over the springs. "The bottom mattress is for support. You get your comfort there," said Platt.

Prices range as high as \$600 for a bed with a 20-year guarantee. Platt explained that most students come in for the new twin or regular bed which costs about \$100.

So you can invest in a bed like the Beautyrest that offers the 'overnight vacation', or take your overnight vacation in the boudoir under the stars in a sleeping bag. Some brands of sleeping bags are even designed to be zipped together for even more comfort.

Better yet, forget the sleeping bags and do as the ancient Germans did. Lie on the ground on beds of leaves covered with skins or in a shallow chest filled with leaves and moss.

Whatever your desires for a new or used bed and however limited by your pocketbook take heed, relax, and get into bed.





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STEVE AND JIM



The ring on Jim's left hand was special. He took great care to wear it at all times. It was a symbol of affection given to him by his lover — Steve.

"After all, everyone is looking for a lover"

For Steve and Jim are just two of the estimated 100 gay students here on campus. No one is quite sure just how many there are because most of them will stay hidden in the closet; afraid to come out. Only a few are able to stand up and admit what they are. It isn't easy, especially on this campus; their organization, the Gay Students Union (GSU), has been battling for years simply to be recognized by the administration.

The members see their club as a chance to raise consciousness and gain self-confidence and to help express themselves as the human beings they are.

Unfortunately, others on campus see the group members as propagandists trying to persuade "fence-riders" to join their style of living. Even the community has trouble accepting them for there are no gay bars or hangouts in town, a fact which GSU member, Steve, finds disgusting.

"After all, everyone is looking for a lover," he admits candidly, "and for us, gay bars are almost the only places where we can meet."

So, the gay students have resorted to other ways of meeting each other and forming relationships. The most popular alternatives are permanent one-to-one homosexual relationships. And according to Steve, there is a great number of them in this area.

"It's called doing a thing together," explains Steve, "and when other gays think there is a thing starting—it's hands off. No one will talk to the new couple because they want everything to work so much. They want these relationships to form; there is no jealousy."

Steve remembers the first time he was with Jim. "I thought the other guys hated me, but it was just because they wanted things to work out so much for both of us," he added. And so far it has. "I love Steve," states Jim flatly. "I want to always be near him."

For most of us in socially acceptable heterosexual relationships, Jim's feelings are touching. Isn't love wonderful? It's so simple and meaningful. But it's not that simple or wonderful for Steve and Jim and others like them. Their relationship culminates a long history of experimentation and even a marriage for Steve was never quite sure what he wanted either.

"If they look you in the eyes they're either gay, have a lot of self-confidence, or are Jesus Freaks."

When he was younger, he said he always liked girls, but he found he just couldn't play their games. He expected total honesty in a relationship and couldn't find it with women. He did, however, find it in his relationships with men. Relationships that began when he was in the sixth grade.

"But the first time I ever really fell in love was when I was in the Navy," related Jim. By that time I was somewhat aware of my desires and I found myself totally in love with this particular man. I told him how I felt. He was straight and admitted that he liked me as a friend but didn't want any lover-type relationship. I called and wrote him and never got any answer...It was a long time before I got over him."

Later Jim enrolled at Cal Poly and joined the GSU looking for someone else to fall in love with. But like other homosexual brothers, Jim still had trouble accepting himself.

"I knew I was interested in men," says Jim. "but I didn't want to be one of those 'faggots,' one of those type of people who dressed weird and acted weird, which is the type of people I thought I found at the GSU meetings. I stayed away."

Probably loneliness and despairation helped Jim gain self-acceptance and confidence and six months later he attended a gay party with an entirely new attitude. He found he could accept all these people because he could accept himself.

Jim explains "It doesn't matter now if people call me a faggot because I accept what I am. I started knowing gay people as human beings and emotions and personalities. Jim continued his search for a lover until recently, when he met Steve.

There are more members of the school of Agriculture in the GSU than in any other school.

"Of course, I still like girls, but not like I like guys," he explains. I've learned a lot about sexual identity within the last year. I didn't like playing little games with girls. I didn't like trying to talk someone into going to bed with me. I had to be perfectly honest."

And he has been. In the past year, Jim has let all of his friends know where he's at. "Now that they all know, I can have lots of different relationships and can feel comfortable and enjoy myself," he says. "Some of my friends were really surprised and others surprised me and said they already knew. Others have told me that a lot of teachers were surprised, too. And my parents? They accept me now but they pray that God will guide me the right way. I hope all of these people will come to see me as myself."

That's what the GSU is all about — helping people understand. Most students see gays stereotyped as swivel hiped, soft-spoken, and effeminate, and think that's a sure sign of a fag. But that's not true. Some do play that part, so others will know them as a fag.

"But," explains Jim, "it's easy to tell a gay guy. It's in the eyes. Straight people usually look away from you when they talk."

"If they look you in the eyes," continues Steve, "they're either gay, have a lot of self-confidence, or are Jesus freaks."

These are facts most students don't know and don't take the trouble to find out.

"Some," says Steve, "especially the aggies, don't want to accept the gays — they don't try to understand us. They say they're not like that and so we shouldn't be." Yet, he points out the aggies would be surprised to know there are more members of the School of Agriculture in the GSU than any other school.

It all comes back to the concept of understanding and acceptance. Steve and Jim have been able to accept themselves, they just need a little understanding from us. All they're saying is, "please accept me, I'm a faggot." And maybe it's about time we did.

outpost

STEVE AND JIM

by Ellen Pensky

photos by Kasha Kessler

TEN YEARS



by Sue Hagen
Illustration by Scott Simpkin

AFTER

Michael fought back a yawn, ran a hand through his tousled black hair and tried to focus on the drawing in front of him. As the clock ticked away the minutes well past three a.m., the weary graphic communications major struggled over his design project, trying desperately to finish it before it would be called for in his eight o'clock class.

At dawn, the fingers of a bright sun drew themselves across Michael's drawing table, where he was just adding his name to the finished project. He glanced at the clock and noted that he had just enough time to shower, gulp down a few more cups of coffee and floor his dilapidated Volkswagon to school in time for that eight o'clocker.

Michael has been pulling all-nighters through college for six years — and he's not out yet. After spending two years at San Mateo Junior

College, another at San Francisco State University (S.F. State) and coming to Poly in the spring of 1972, Michael still has the rest of this year and another full year of college ahead of him. Seven years...that's not what they tell you in the high school counselling office! But then, they never give you the whole picture anyway.

Michael's seven-year stint in college has been brought about by many factors. After completing four years of study in psychology, he decided to change majors. Because the graphic communications major here requires a three-year design project, he has had to tack another three years of schooling onto the four already put behind him. The change of majors and schools and what Michael considers "terrible guidance and counselling" at S.F. State are what cost him the extra time in school.

One wonders how many of us have come to college believing it would be a four-year trek, only to find the institution a permanent residence for some five to ten years. Think of the heart-rendering cases of lovers who vow to marry as soon as they've finished college, and then have to be raced to the altar in wheelchairs, adjusting their hearing aids all the way up the aisle.

And then there's the parent pressure. Those parents who are meeting expenses for their "child's" education expect it to be a four-year investment. After all, it's a general assumption that college is a four-year study program. This is a four-year college, isn't it? Who ever heard of a seven-year college? Or a nine-and-a-half-year college?

When the folks down home who are forking out the greenbacks learn that Junior must attend school for a few extra quarters, they are disgraced. Junior is immediately labeled a slothful, lazy, no-good college hippie. He doesn't work. He doesn't study. He doesn't even try. Mom smiles nervously when her friends in the beauty shop inquire about him; she tells them he's doing some "special research."

Dad wears his sunglasses around town, hoping none of the fellas will point and say, "There goes Fred. His son has to repeat college." And little sister giggles and tells her friends that big brother flunked.

Evelyn admits frankly that she is embarrassed by her son's five-year college stint. She understands that her son, Ron, has no academic problems—he sports a 3.9 grade point average. But Evelyn has trouble explaining the difficult situation to her friends. Her son has been in college over four years. Shouldn't he have graduated by now?

Evelyn and her husband are disgusted with the wasted time and embarrassment, but they don't blame their son. Ron claims he had poor guidance while changing majors at a Texas university.

Janet, an English major running her last lap toward graduation, is dismayed by her parents' lack of understanding. She will be ten units short of graduation this June, so she

must finish her education this summer. To her parents, this is tragic. But Janet feels she is lucky to need only one extra quarter to finish her four-year college plan.

Sue's parents are more understanding. Although Sue is just a step away from a junior standing, Mom and Dad have already told her to enjoy school and to take the classes she wants to take, as well as those that her major requires. She's not to worry about how long it takes her to earn her degree.

Their "you-only-go-to-college-once" attitude has put Sue in a relaxed, yet enthusiastic situation. A business major, she combats the boredom of secretarial classes by pulling an occasional art, music or journalism class, never worrying about whether or not they'll satisfy a requirement in her major. Sue plans to get all she can get out of college, learning a little about a lot of things.

It's an established fact that college is NOT the basic four-year extension of high school that many people believe it to be. There are many reasons for added quarters and years. True, in a few cases the reasons may be laziness and lack of motivation, but that's really not the main factor at all.

"Students forget to live while they're students," maintains Dr. George Mulder, Director of Counseling and Testing at Cal Poly. This is the main student problem his counselling staff encounters each year. "Because students are so anxious to get out of school and build for themselves new lives," Mulder says, "they become too wrapped up in the future. Hence they fail to weigh their worth right now, and to see how important their lives are at this point."

"The students exert many of their own pressures," Mulder explains. "A student chooses his own schedule, his unit load, his working hours and activities. Then the pressures become so tremendous that he lapses into a lack of concentration, the 'blahs' or spring fever." These "ailments" often result in his dropping out of school for a quarter or two in order to calm down. Upon return, he will feel pressured to "catch up" and the same thing will happen to him again.

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Another problem that may be a big one to many students is poor guidance within the school system. This was where Michael and Ron were snagged. Although some students feel that counselling has ruined their plans, many others race that they couldn't have made it through school without the advice they sought from academic counsellors.

Joe is still at Poly, after beginning school here in 1967. Although he graduated in December of 1973 with a graphic communications degree, he has had to return to raise his GPA in order to qualify for the student teaching program.

During the quarter break after his graduation, Joe was bombarded with literature urging him to begin his student teaching. Joe arranged to do so in Lompoc during the next quarter. Shortly after his job was in full swing, he was called back to Poly because of his GPA.

Joe is furious with the counselling bodies here, claiming he was misadvised. Not only did he waste his time by beginning his student teaching while he was unknowingly ineligible, but he also upset the school in Lompoc. He is here now, nailed on a technicality, striving for a few more A's. His GPA was only 1/4 of a grade point deficient.

Anyone who doesn't know Joe's story, or Michael's, Ron's or Sue's, might consider them "professional students", clinging to college to avoid having to make career decisions in real life. But most of the students in their positions are here for a purpose. School is a launching pad, not a secret hideaway tucking them away from the big cruel world in pseudo-security.

The students who DO make it out of here in four years or less deserve to be highly commended for their ability to overstep ems and jump pitfalls. Tim will earn his degree in Natural Resource Management this spring, after four uneventful academic years in college. His reasons for success? He stuck with one major, one school, 16-18 unit loads and took only the courses outlined in his curriculum. It may have been a dull four years, but he's going to make it.

It may be comforting for all concerned to know that only 15 per cent of full time college students earn their degree through a four-year endeavor, according to Tom Dunnigan, director of institutional research here. Maybe you're the one out of every three students who changes his major, like Michael or Ron. Maybe your junior college units didn't apply to your field of study. Maybe you're carrying light unit loads in order to keep a job, or you can't get the classes you need. Whatever the case, you're not alone.

So if you've got it figured that your diploma is at the end of the ten-year plan, accept the fact. At least you'll get that degree in child development in time to rear your grandchildren.

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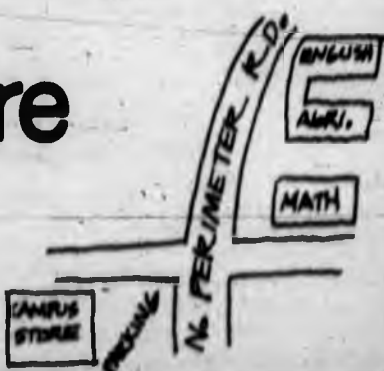
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