

Summer Mustang

Thursday, August 26, 1982

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Volume 46, No. 126



it may take two to tango, but Bert Haugen finds he can practice the waltz without a partner. Haugen is a student in Moon Suhr's social dance class. Summer Mustang—Tom Johnson

War directed at civilians, student claims

BY SHERRY HEATH

Staff Writer

Although the Israelis invaded Lebanon to remove the Palestine Liberation Organization, the invasion has primarily been a "war against civilians," said a Cal Poly Lebanese student whose family remains in the coastal city of Tyre.

Nain Zakaria, a 19-year-old electrical engineering major, explained that "Israel says they don't kill civilians, but they've killed over 15,000 of my people—mostly children. They came to get the PLO out of Lebanon, but they've killed civilians not the PLO."

Zakaria, who came to Cal Poly because his older brother was here, said that when the Israeli army invaded southern Lebanon, they passed directly through Tyre on their way to Beirut, and destroyed the entire city.

Prison camps

He is also glad he left when he did, for as soon as Israel reached Tyre, they "caught all the young people (between 16 and 50)—not the PLO, and put them in prison camps," said Zakaria.

"My brother (who is a teacher) and cousin are still prisoners. There are 9,000 civilians in these prisons," he said. "My other brother was too young or he'd have been caught too."

Please see page 2

Lord of Poly Canyon

BY PHEBE FLETCHER

Staff Writer

"Well if you can't find it, you can always follow the creek up - you can't miss it that way. Oh how are you coming?" asked the voice over the telephone, "because they lock the gate," but it's good to walk?

Later in the dim, floating late afternoon light, architecture student Myrle McLernon sat erect, pointing out the essentials to his living quarters. "It's hard to believe I can live in a place like this," he interjected, "kicking back while I'm going to school. There are deer, you see them on the hill, though during this season they're more often down by Poly. It's fawn season now and do they get confused," he smiled. "If I drive out at night I see them bewildered by the lights- I stop, and turn off the lights until they go."

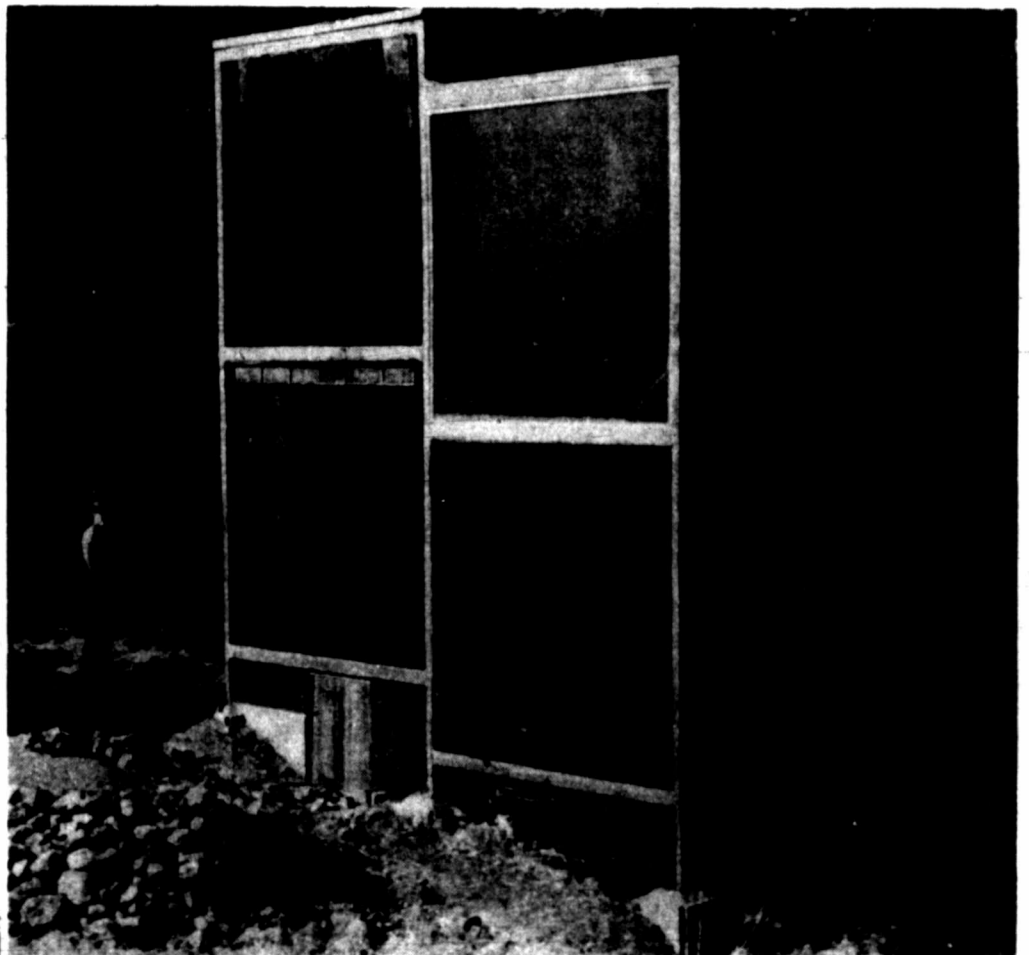
Landlord

All this under the name of education. McLernon's landlord is the Cal Poly Architecture Department; the land, and the modular house in which McLernon lives is nestled on Poly Canyon.

"Ten years ago the school wanted to stop some vandalizing that had started so they put some people up here," said McLernon, who has lived in the canyon since the beginning of the summer. He is allowed to stay as long as it takes him to finish the architecture program, which will probably be another three years. "I'm surprised at how clean the canyon is for the amount of people that come - people party up here a lot," McLernon said. "We empty the trash cans."

McLernon, entering his fourth year at Cal Poly, has been an active member of the student-run Poly Canyon cooperative for the past couple of years, whose sole purpose is doing work in the canyon. McLernon must have been blessed with some leprechaun luck to be living there. However, the group works closely with the architecture department, which selects the department student that will live in the canyon when another leaves. Only two live in the canyon. The other student, Jim Young, lives just uphill of McLernon in the shell house, so-called because of its molded shape.

Please see page 6



While most Cal Poly students squeeze into crowded apartment complexes, architecture student Myrle McLernon (left) is able to stretch out in the modular house nestled in Poly Canyon. Though McLernon's house is isolated, it has not been stripped of necessities, such as a solar water heater.

Summer Mustang—Leslie Winkel

Former president resigns from advocate post

BY PETER HASS

Staff Writer

Last year's ASI president, Dennis Hawk, has resigned his post as ASI legislative advocate.

Hawk said he turned in his letter of resignation Aug. 10 to ASI President Sandra Clary. Clary appointed Hawk to the post last May.

Hawk said Clary accepted his resignation on August 12. Asked if he was pressured into leaving the position, he said, "Not necessarily. I had to deal with a lot of pressure over the year, so it wasn't really a factor."

He added he resigned "based on factors that made me almost not apply in the first place: graduating, taking a full load; I needed to get into school." As legislative advocate, Hawk would have traveled as Cal Poly's California State Student Association representative, as well as served as vote coordinator and

an advise to Clary and the Student Senate on state and national issues. Clary said she has since appointed ASI Vice President Kevin Moses as the CSSA representative for the year.

Not needed

Clary said the letter Hawk gave her was not really necessary, as his appointment would not be confirmed until the Senate approved it this fall.

"His resignation was more of a sign that it was official rather than coming to me and asking," Clary reasoned.

She confirmed that "school was a major reason, even when he was being considered for the post," adding, due to some "prior happenings, or assumed happenings in ASI, he felt a certain lack of confidence and trust from a few staff members."

Neither Clary nor Hawk would name names, but Hawk concurred, "I think the problems that did occur and their

potshots would have occurred throughout the year. It's something else added in that leads to an unproductive atmosphere."

The criticism Hawk received last year about the overspent ASI officers travel budget, which got major coverage in the *Mustang Daily*, wasn't a major reason for his resignation, he said. He did add

that he thought such haggling and press is not productive for the students.

Clary said she accepted Hawk's resignation "based on his reasons and what was best for the ASI," adding, "he'll still be involved on some system-wide (CSU) committees such as IRA (instructionally related activities) and a student service fee advisory committee."

Student's city crushed in invasion

From page 1

When the Israeli army came through Tyre "they told everyone to go down to the beach and then blocked off the roads," said Zakaria. But the PLO members in Tyre had already fled to Beirut, which is 80 kilometers north of Tyre.

The invasion continued into Beirut then, where many more civilians have died "because Israelis cut off the water," he said. "West Beirut used to be a beautiful city, but now it is destroyed. I think it's terrible and I'm sad that they've destroyed my

country."

Zakaria was there in 1979 when Israel previously invaded southern Lebanon but then stopped before reaching Tyre.

"They didn't take my city but they used to bomb it for two hours every day," he said. "At first it scared us, but after two or three months we got used to it. We just went to bomb shelters because if we didn't go we'd be killed."

Please see page 5

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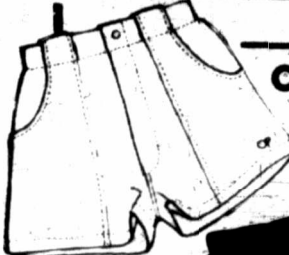
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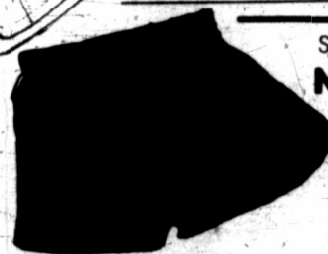
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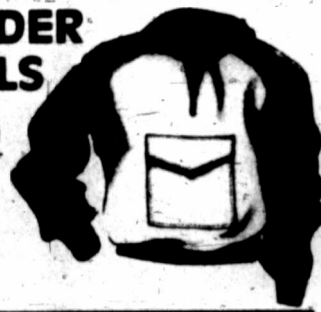
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This will be the greeting tens of thousands of visitors to Solvang will receive on the weekend of September 18 and 19, when the annual Danish Days festival gets underway.

Though visitors flock year-round to the village known as the Danish Capital of America (just 70 miles south of San Luis Obispo), the third weekend in September is something special.

"Originally, this was a harvest festival for the community, and all the shops in town would close," said Dean Klitgaard, who will host a polka contest on Sunday. He noted the celebration began in the early part of this century, and has since evolved into a tourist-oriented weekend.

Tourists are rewarded not only with the pastries and shopping adventures normally found in the town, but with two days full of entertainment planned as soon as the curtain falls on the previous year's activities.

Lines begin to form Saturday morning as early risers follow their noses to the aebleskiver and medisterpolse breakfast. The outdoor kitchen at which the spherical pancakes and Danish sausage are prepared takes up much of Copenhagen Drive, which like the rest of the downtown area, is closed to automobile traffic for two days.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, the colorful parade marches through town to delight spectators. But the attractions that are most popular are the Village Band, Folk dancers, and singers who rove around the town to give viewers a taste of traditional Danish song and dance.

In addition to the local dancers, groups from Fresno and San Diego will also exhibit some fancy footwork for the crowds. Both days the Solvang Danish Rhythmic Gymnastics Group, a troop of children of all ages, will entertain the crowd with forward rolls and cartwheels.

The Air Force Band of the Golden West will also perform in tiny Solvang Park both days, and Susan Goff will read some of Hans Christian Andersen's classic stories for the young and young at heart at the same location.

Three performances of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" will be staged over the weekend by the Santa Ynez Valley Youth Theater, comprised of local amateur talent.

Saturday night comes to a close with a "grand ball and festive feast" sponsored by Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

This year's event promises to be one of the busiest ever for those who attend, as there is plenty to see and do both days. The Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts continues performances through the weekend at the open air Festival Theater with "Carousel," "Hank Williams, King of Country Music," and "Mame."

Other activities include Danish movies, a pilgrimage of clowns and jugglers, and a polka contest which gives visitors a chance to show what they've learned by watching the pros do it.

For a fun-filled, inexpensive weekend of fun, it's easy to see why so many people keep coming back for a "besoget" (visit) to Solvang during Danish Days.



Story and photos by Peter Hass



Firefighters prepared to battle emergencies



Jim Neumann helps Gary Schuelke give one of the firetrucks a thorough lookover. The Cal Poly firefighters must have their equipment in good working order as they are expected to respond to a call at a minute's notice.

JENNIFER JOSEPH

Staff Writer

Within a few minutes they can respond to the call for help. They are trained in emergency medical procedures, rescuing victims from auto accidents, kittens from trees and, most of all, to put out almost any kind of structural or brush fire on the Cal Poly campus.

They are the university's student firefighters.

The Department of Public Safety employs and carefully trains 15 to 20 students to handle fire and medical emergencies throughout the 5,000-acre

campus. The staff also includes four full-time engineers, including a new supervisor, Jeff Paulus, and training supervisor, Leslie Webster.

Under the watchful eyes of Webster, the firefighters learn to dangle from aerial ladders, lay hose lines to fires, use the pumps and to drive two huge engines and a ladder truck.

Medical aid service began in 1977, said Richard J. Smiley, a 10-year staff veteran of the department. Each engine carries a trauma kit, a large 20 pound box of medical aid supplies and a resuscitator.

Most of the firefighters are certified Emergency Medical Technicians, Smiley said, and can provide first aid until a victim is taken to a hospital.

EMTs

Students aren't required to be certified as EMTs, but those who go through the program spend 100 hours learning about basic life support and first aid training. The first aid training includes cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), how to slow or stop bleeding and how to prevent shock.

"I think we're trained proficiently and can handle anything on campus," said

Lyle Leman, 25, who has been with the department over a year.

Gary Schuelke, 21, is a firefighter majoring in Industrial Technology. Schuelke has been interested in the fire service since high school and applied to the department when he arrived at Cal Poly. He had no previous experience but was accepted to the department the first week.

"Experience here is the best," he said. "It's a good place to learn."

"It teaches you leadership...a group effort," said Mark Ongarato, 25. Sharing responsibilities is also important.

Don West feels the best thing he has learned from his training as a firefighter is how to deal with people and pressure.

"You have to be calm when the alarm goes off," said West. "You have to learn to work under a lot of pressure without freezing up."

Good team

"As a crew, we're a good team," said West. "...it's a good feeling having so much responsibility." What makes it exciting, he added, is the element of danger.

Through a mutual aid agreement with the California Department of Forestry the department will sometimes get a call for extra manpower. That doesn't happen often though. Most of the calls received are for medical aid.

Each quarter the firefighters jockey their schedules around classes. Choices for schedules are on a seniority system, and the night shift 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. is the most preferred, said Leman.

While on duty, the firefighters handle routine chores, polish the trucks, clean and service equipment. Each morning equipment is checked.

"Responsibilities are a lot less at night," said Leman. That leaves the night crew quiet hours to study, watch TV (a luxury not allowed during the day), or reading up on new fire fighting techniques.

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SLO residents pack discount film houses

BY SHERRY HEATH
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered how some theaters can charge only a dollar per movie while all the rest make you fork out four big ones for the same flick?

According to Denise Jannopoulos, manager of the Fair Oaks Theatre in Arroyo Grande, which is one of three local theaters that offer discount rates, film companies usually charge a percentage of the theater's box office intake. This means that if, for example, a theater grosses \$1,000 a night and the film company charges 50 percent, the company would receive \$500.

But, if a theater makes \$4,000 from the same movie, they would owe the film company \$2,000. So the more you charge, the more you owe, says the theater manager.

And at the Fair Oaks that means charging "just enough to keep our heads above water," says Jannopoulos.

But the box office isn't the only income source, she points out. The snack bar sufficiently supplements the theater's profits.

According to Jannopoulos, Fair Oaks charges the same prices for its goodies as the Madonna Plaza Theatres. But this isn't the only connection between

the two movie-houses; Jannopoulos' father-in-law, Jim, is the owner of these three theaters and the Bay Theater in Morro Bay and the Fox Theater in Paso Robles.

Mike Myers, manager of the Bay Theater, is also doing considerable business and is having plenty of fun doing it he says.

Family faire

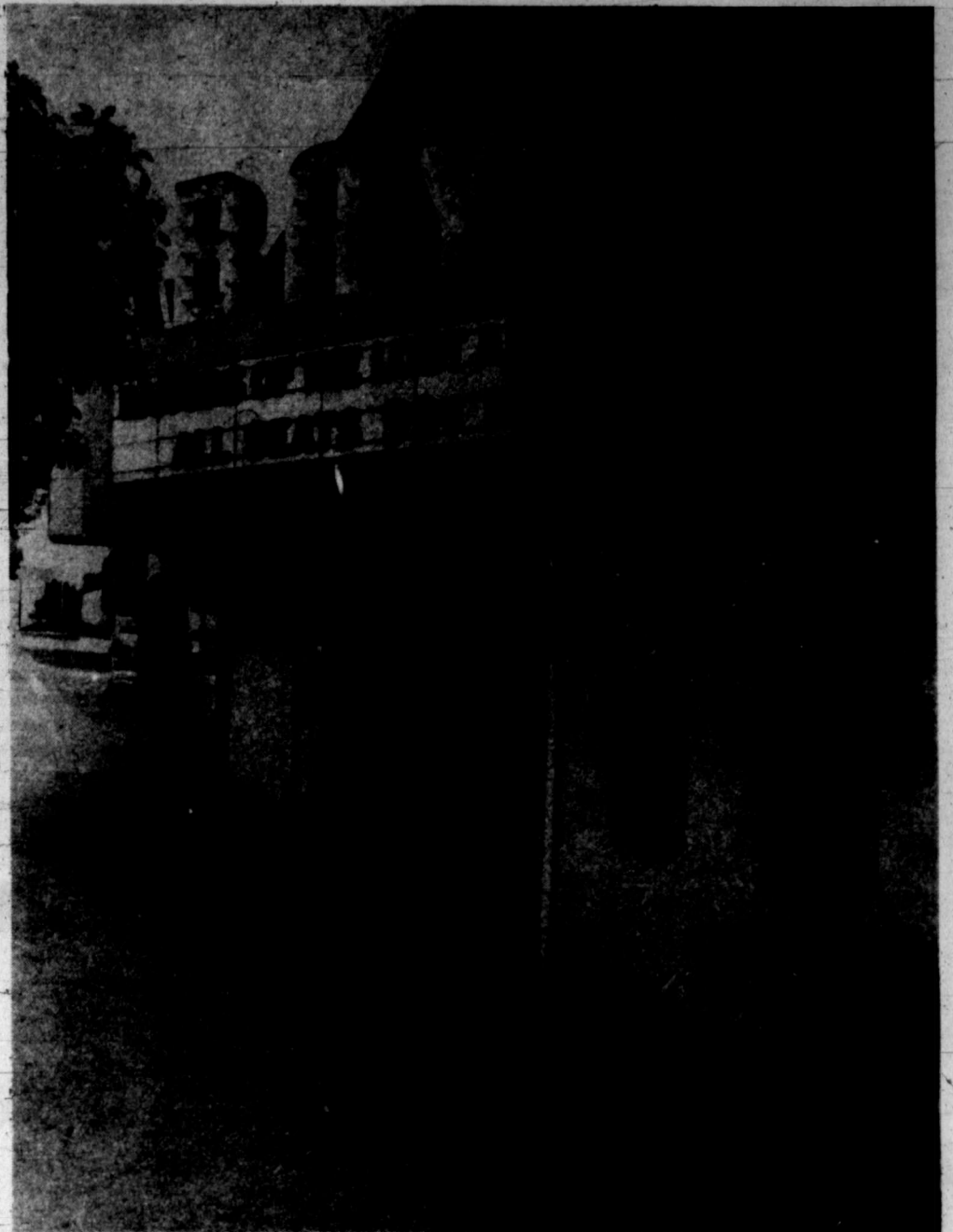
"We consistently pack people in," he said. "Everywhere I go people ask me what's coming next. They know they can bring the whole family for the price of one movie anywhere else."

He claimed he could raise his prices without affecting his business but he doesn't want to "because this is a treat to do."

People who are willing to wait a few weeks after the movies run at other, more expensive theaters in the area, get to reap the rewards of their patience, by not only finally viewing a good show, but simultaneously viewing a less depleted bank account.

Not only do those who wait "think it's neat," said Myers, but more people can afford to see movies twice or as often as their funds—and interest—hold out.

"We get nothing but compliments," said Myers. "600 people per night get to enjoy the feeling of a 99-cent theater."



Summer Mustang—Vern Alvord

How can the Bay Theater in Morro Bay afford to show movies like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* for 99 cents? The Bay Theater, and the three other discount theaters, say it makes enough money from the snack bar revenues to keep its head above water.

Student sympathizes with PLO

From page 2

He said the Israelis "never knew where they were going to hit. They just threw up the bombs and said they were trying."

"We were out of school for the whole two months after they hit my school while we were there one day. But they didn't hit my house then—just this time," said Zakaria. He explained that the PLO was in Tyre and southern Lebanon at the time, but quickly moved when the bombing began.

When asked how he views Israel, Zakaria replied, "Of course I'm against them—it makes me angry. I hope Americans will change their opinion toward Israel. Right now they're using American weapons in Beirut."

"Once the PLO goes to

Jordan and Iraq, Israel will leave—they'll have no excuse to be there anymore," said Zakaria, whose easy smile reveals no bitterness.

"I think they'll let the civilians go then—they're not PLO," he said.

Zakaria "kind of sympathizes" with the PLO because "they need a country after being kicked out of Israel in 1948 (when that nation gained statehood)," he said.

"They need a homeland just like everybody else."

"But," says the soft-spoken freshman, "I came here to study, not to talk politics."

Zakaria plans to work as an engineer in Beirut after he graduates. He feels that Lebanon "will need help from Arab countries to rebuild," but that the future for the country holds peace.

That includes a solution to the Lebanese civil war between Christians and Moslems, a conflict which erupted in 1974 which has caused a lifetime of war for Zakaria.

"Eventually, I think they will work it out," he said. "I just want there to be no more fighting."

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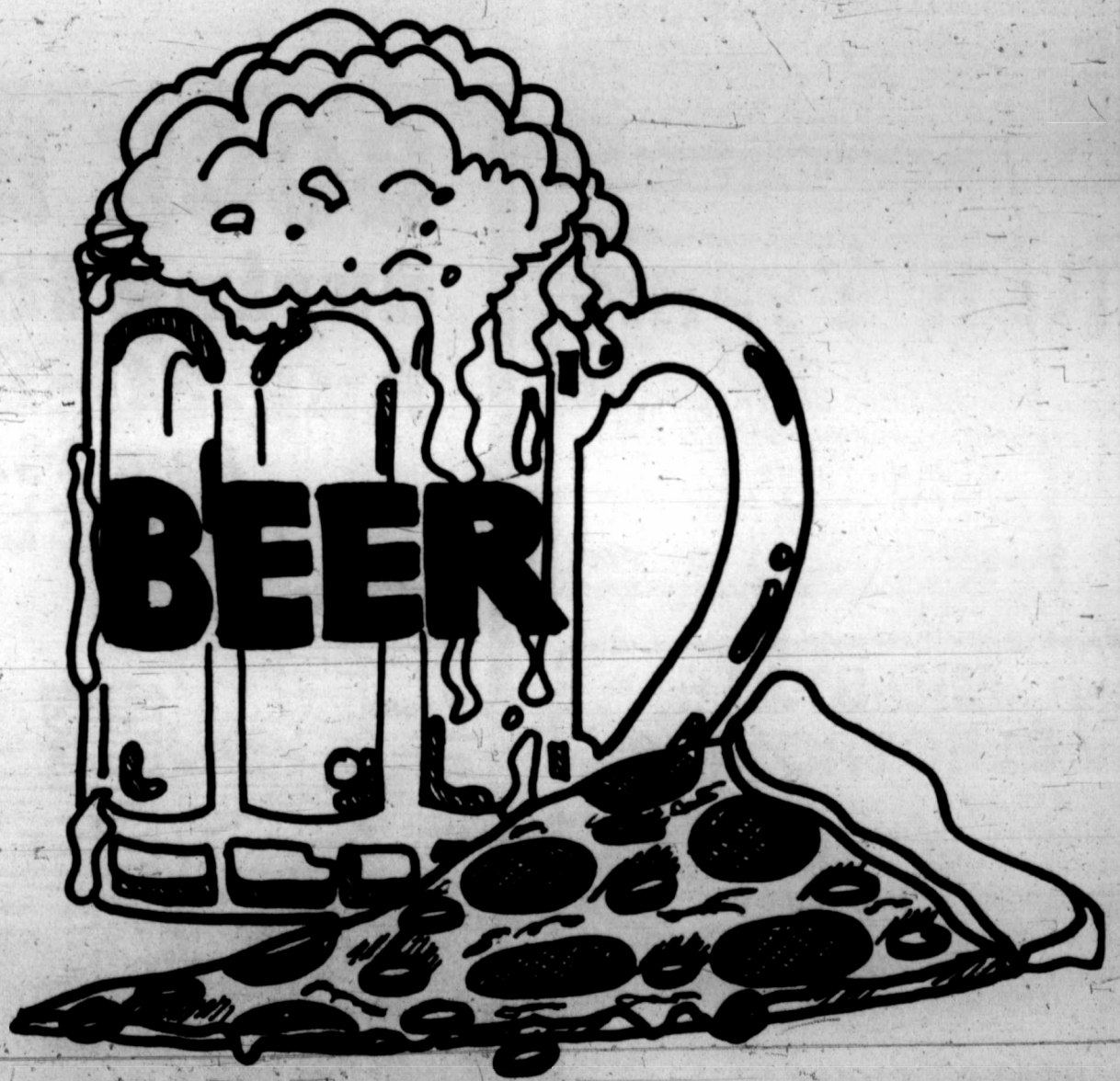
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'It's hard to believe I can live in a place like this'

From page 1

Canyon workers

McLernon was president of the co-op last year and is its vice president this year. "Our real meetings are up here working on things," he said. "That's our only function, aside from selling lemonade from the booth at Poly Royal. We remodel the Canyon buildings, and do maintenance, or whatever projects need to be done."

"It rained the first three days I was here," McLernon began, detailing the house's design. The house is sectioned into six cubic areas, three "upstairs" and three down; up the corkscrew staircase is a sleeping loft, below it a cubic bathroom, there is a very elevated study area across the entry's air space from the loft, and on the ground floor a kitchen, and a sitting room with a sunken floor and a circular fireplace (and heater) whose chimney rises uninterrupted, finally passing out beyond the flat roof. The whole building is an absolute cube. "One wonders did he even want to go out those three rainy days." "It was originally built for students with no walls so they could learn grid drawing, (for drafting)," he explained.

"This house will be remodelled," McLernon asserted. (The Co-op always manages to find recruits,

he had said earlier.) "If I leave that upper window open all day maybe it's OK in here, we can bake," he said. "...But we'll probably put in some more windows. And not all the walls are insulated." There's lots to build on for the remodeling proposals on which McLernon is working. A student advisory committee decides what should go up on the canyon, which acts as a planning commission although they never had to turn down a project.

Self sufficient

"We're pretty self-sufficient here, the water's solar-heated. Three other guys and myself built (the heater) this spring. The water comes from a spring above the house." The water is not hard like most local water, rating 4 or 5 on a hardness scale of 10.

There is also a tiny pond, and a well. "We're well-supplied should there ever be a house fire, but anything more than that..." he eyed the high, purchased grasses surrounding the house. "The back is only partially cleared. We don't like the prospect of fires," McLernon said. "There was one a few weeks ago across the valley on the other side of the ridge. The (Paso Robles forest service) fire fighters stopped it quick with their Bomber: dropped a few 'bombs' and it went out instantly," he said, pleased.

McLernon doesn't mind the steep-sided hills. "The

best is hiking up on the ridge. There's a huge bay tree up there...the leaves are good to cook with. Sometimes one of the runners comes down with a branch in hand. Or you see one running up and then start walking," he laughed. "I'm not a runner," he quickly added.

The house is not as isolated as it seems. There is electricity. An outdoor emergency phone links residents with the campus.

"Friends cruise up a lot," he said. He also gets visitors. "One couple came up recently, I was just reading in my book and they asked, in their New York accents, if they could look around inside. -I said sure."

Outside, looking like a wardrobe closet, a passive-heat greenhouse stores the mid-day heat that streams in through the scrap fiberglass roof by heating an inner wall of one-gallon plastic containers, filled with water which retains the heat.

Lastly, McLernon showed off a gully he lined recently with rock, a subtle fence, so "people won't just wander into the back yard, or the cows," he added, "who used to come mowing up the grass until they felt this ground was only fill. They feel it move underneath because they're so heavy," he explained.

Hearing a deep bellow he looked over at the hillside beside the house. "I wonder which side of the fence he's on?" he asked aloud.

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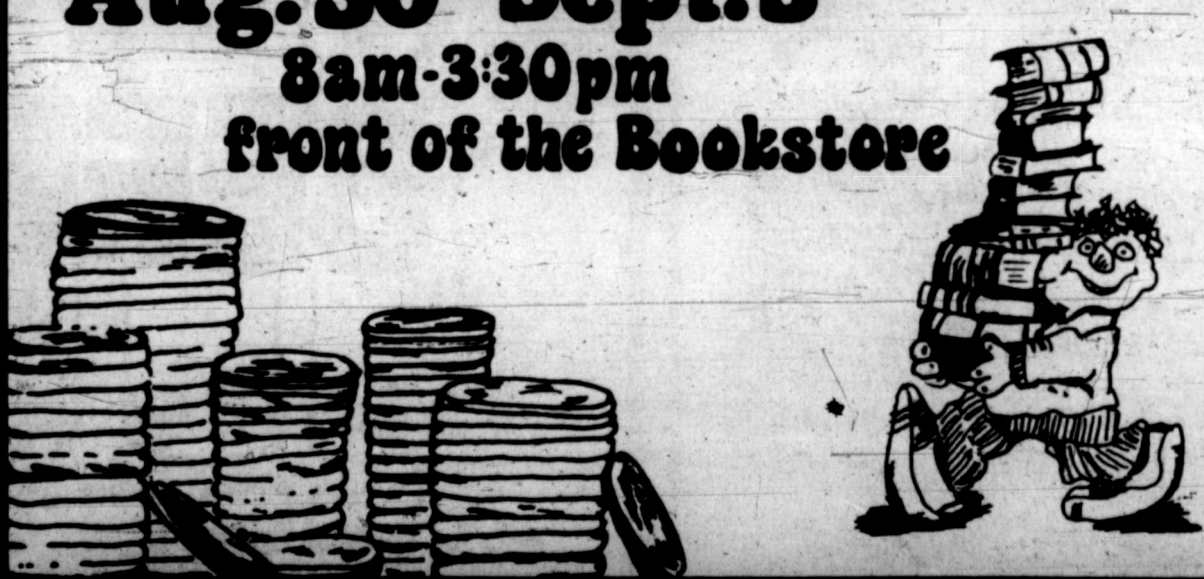
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Poly spikers prepare for Trojan's invasion

BY MIKE MATHISON

Staff Writer

As Henry Winkler's leatherclad character "The Fonz" would say it, "Saturday night, September 11. Main Gymnasium. 7:30. Be There."

Why? Well, guess who's coming to town? No, it won't be Santa. But it will be a group of people wearing red. And they won't be here spreading glad tidings and good fortunes, either.

The intruders will be the USC Trojans. And they will invade San Luis Obispo looking to defend their two-time national championship as the 1982 Division I NCAA Volleyball season gets underway.

Both clubs will already have one game in the till when they bump heads. USC will host Pepperdine the night before; while the Mustangs will entertain Loyola-Marymount on Sept. 9.

Poly head coach Mike Wilton calls the Trojans' mentor, "one of the premier college volleyball coaches in the nation." The man Wilton is talking about is Chuck Erbe, who has amassed a 165-30-3 record and four national crowns in his five years at the school. His initial two seasons at USC were simply phenomenal.

Phenomenal coach

Erbe led the club to a 34-1 record in 1976 (1971), winning both the Western Conference Athletic Association (WCAA) and national titles. The Trojans backed that year up with a superb 38-0 season, and again capturing both crowns. Erbe took a leave of absence in 1978, but returned in 1979 to compile a 20-13-3 mark (.623) and finished second (9-3) in the WCAA. But in 1980 the coach and his team returned to old form and won another national championship, this one with a 46-6 slate.

Last year Erbe and his team won its fourth national crown, but it was the first ever NCAA volleyball championship, so it made the win all that much more significant. The first three national crowns were under AIAW guidelines.

"Chuck is just a phenomenal coach," Mustang senior middle blocker and outside hitter Wendy Hooper said.

Hooper played under Erbe at one time and had a chance to become a Trojan. "I'm not a USC-type player," she smiled.

But she is a Cal Poly-type player. Hooper is one of three seniors on the team. She played a major part in the 41-8 club of last year, and will be playing another major role again this season. Wilton has Hooper penciled in as a middle blocker. But she could just as easily move over and become a very forceful outside hitter.

"Potentially, Wendy is as good as any middle blocker in college volleyball," Wilton said. "And I really believe that is true. She will be a big factor in our success this year. She has a lot of ability. In the past we have gone just about as far as our middle blockers have taken us. And it should be just about the same this year."

Tough scheduler

This year the Mustangs have the toughest home schedule in the school's history. Along with USC, Poly also entertains Pepperdine, UC Santa Barbara, Hawaii and Pacific (the team which knocked it from the Final Four). The Mustangs will also play an exhibition match against the People's Republic of China Women's Junior National Team, Wednesday night, Sept. 22, at 7:30.

There have been some pleasant surprises in the first sets of two-a-day workouts with the team. This was a nice change after the club got off on the wrong foot. Literally.

Carol Tschasar, a 6-1 freshman middle blocker from California High School in Whittier, was almost a sure bet to push a returner for a job. But on the eve before the first practice of 1982, Tschasar tore some ligaments in her right foot and is now on crutches. Wilton calls his neophyte, "an aircraft carrier. She has the potential to flat-out carry team." The extent of Tschasar's injury is unknown.

A nice surprise for Wilton is 5-11 sophomore Sheri Ostrand. She is a walk-on and is fighting for the No. 2 setting position with freshman Dede Bodnar and sophomore Chris Lawson.

Right now the club is trying to match skills with each other to see who the starting six will become Thursday night, Sept. 9, against Loyola-Marymount.

But the match in their minds is the one with USC. After all, the Trojans are No. 1 in the nation.

And they aren't even on probation.



Summer Mustang—John Lynch

Setter Tina Taylor will assume the role of floor general when the Mustang volleyball team begins battle this fall. Poly will need strong leadership from Taylor if its to beat reigning national champion USC when the two teams clash in the Main Gym September 11.

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Typecasting

If the federal government was a melodrama, many Americans would probably cast President Ronald Reagan as the villain.

Indeed, Reagan has donned the coal black top hat and the menacing cloak of a Snidley Whiplash on several occasions to cut welfare, food stamps, Medicaid and other benefits to the poor.

But last week Reagan proved that he cannot be simply typecast as one who takes glee in tying heroines to the railroad tracks and foreclosing the mortgage on widowed mothers. For last week Reagan fought for, and won, something that rarely comes out of Congress: a humane tax increase.

The \$98.3 billion Reagan-backed tax increase does not take from those who can least afford it, like most tax increases are apt to do, but is directed at those who are not paying their share or could afford to pay more.

The tax measure will require that corporations and financial institutions to withhold 10 percent of interest and dividends for tax purposes, just as part of wages are now withheld. Also the value of some special reductions, such as the oil depletion allowance, would be slashed by 15 percent. Corporations will now have to pay 90 percent of their estimated tax instead of 80 percent.

Additional tax monies would be earned through forbidding oil companies to use foreign tax credits to avoid a U.S. tax on other income, a cigarette, airline and telephone tax and through eliminating some tax advantages of corporate retirement plans for upper income professionals.

On the other hand, the unemployed will receive additional federal benefits and employers will have to pay a larger tax to finance unemployment compensation.

With this tax increase, Reagan has veered away from the supply-side economics theory that hypothesizes that if business is left alone and allowed to grow, all peoples will benefit. Reagan has finally realized that it is the assembly line workers rather than General Motors which can best affect the economy as they are the ones who create and buy consumer goods.

The tax increase was supported by many liberals. No wonder. It was a "Democratic" tax hike which recognized the worth of the worker.

But for the economy to right itself, Reagan will have to let go of his supply side notions entirely. Money must be taken from the bloated defense budget and tax loopholes must be plugged so that corporations and those in the higher income brackets pay what they owe.

Reagan has apparently learned that it is the workers who provide the gasoline to run the country's economic vehicle. Therefore money must be spent to break the back of high unemployment by increasing funds to worker training programs and student loan and grants.

With his humane tax increase, President Reagan has softened his Snidley Whiplash image. Now Reagan must work to further cure the country's economic ills by abandoning his supply side policies altogether.

Summer Mustang

Letters and press releases may be submitted to the *Summer Mustang* by bringing them to the Mustang office in Room 226 of the Graphic Arts Building, or by sending them to: Editor, *Summer Mustang* GrC 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407. Letters must be double-space typed and include the writer's signature and phone number.

The editors reserve the right to edit letters for length and style, and to omit libelous statements. Letters should be kept as short as possible; inordinately long letters will not be published.

The *Summer Mustang* encourages readers' opinions, criticisms and comments on all editorial matter. To ensure that letters will be considered for the next edition, they should be submitted to the Mustang office by 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Press releases should be submitted to the Mustang at least a week before they should run. All releases must include phone numbers and names of the people or organizations involved, in case further information is required.



The Last Word:

Proud GDI

It's my turn for a confession. I'm not a sorority girl. (If your nose isn't too high up in the air to see this, please read on.)

Sorority girls don't understand us non-sorority female students, or "GDI's," as they prefer to call us. (In case you're not up on Greek Lingo, a GDI is a God Damned Independent.) Too bad we're condemned for our individuality. But, if we must have a label, we must.

Finding something to do with my time is the hard-part about being a GDI. After all, since I'm not involved with the fascinating, non-stop social whirl sorority girls engage in, I just have loads of free time on my hands. Just think how miserable I am. I don't get to go to Greek parties, dinners, banquets, dances, formals, balls or weddings. I'm not entitled to participate in such delightful occasions as Greek Week or Greek Sing, and darn it, I'm not eligible to run for the title of Greek Goddess. This really breaks my heart.

From there life gets harder. Since I don't wear a sweat-shirt boasting a string of letters on my chest, it's difficult to find me in the Snack Bar. Don't worry though, I won't be sitting at the "Reserved For Greeks Only" tables.

The most essential aspect of being a GDI is that I have my own friends I made myself. I don't have to be "accepted" into a sorority. My friends like me for who I am, not for what I am.

You know, it's nice, because it doesn't take any time to be a "good GDI." I don't have to work hard. I'm just myself. I don't have to answer to some seventy-odd girls. If I say or do something I regret later, I have only to answer to myself.

All I ask is the next time you meet a GDI, give her a hand for not conforming. Be glad she's a GDI.

Author Carol Johnson is a senior journalism major and *Summer Mustang* staff writer.

No opinion

Being on the *Summer Mustang* staff has its disadvantages.

One of them is the requirement that each reporter turn in an opinion piece.

People outside the organization, who read the campus newspaper with varying degrees of pleasure, must think it would be wonderful to spout off on any topic that comes to mind. Teachers, friends and acquaintances all have a topic they want me to write on. They seem to think my opinion should obviously agree with theirs.

Personally, unless I'm really ticked off about something, it's hard for me to come up with something that could be called "an opinion piece."

Sure, I could come up with a piece on how *E.T.* has affected my life, but that's been done. And I've already written about how commercialism and phone evangelists are hurting religion.

Sometimes, it's just real difficult to come up with a definite view on anything. I voted for Reagan, but I sure as hell don't always agree with him.

I don't think I want to see Diablo open, but I'm not sure nuclear power is always a bad idea.

And I'm not sure whether it is good for the U.S. to dump Taiwan and strengthen our relations with Mainland China.

One can't have opinions on everything. Sometimes it's good for you to just mull over the question of the day, trying to get as much information on a topic as is possible. Being neutral is your right.

I do have opinions on a few things. I think the Dodgers are the best team in baseball right now (this is known as a biased opinion).

I think printing up bilingual ballots is a waste of money (this is an unpopular opinion).

Opinions, on trivial or important matters, can be dangerous to your health. Some people get really angry when you offer one.

I'll probably gain a lot of enemies just by offering the two above, so I'll stop here. In my opinion, I've said enough.

And most of you probably agree.

Author Peter Hass is a senior journalism major and *Summer Mustang* staff writer.

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