CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY SAN LUIS OBISPO

MUSTANG DAILY

VOLUME 57, NO. 24 ★ TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1992

"If the students take over the (police's) job, you'll have more mayhem than you (can) deal with."

Richie Ray Walker
Council Candidate

WHERE THEY STAND
ELECTION '92
Candidate's positions on:
'SNAP'

"This is something we've been talking about for (years) and I think it's great."

Peg Pinard
Mayoral Candidate

SNAP reaches critical vote

City Council, mayoral hopefuls consider peer policing

By Kevin Dalrymple
Staff Writer

The fate of a proposed student policing program awaits a final decision from the ASI Board of Directors in tomorrow night's meeting.

Local political candidates, with the exception of Cal Massey, discussed the issue with the editorial board of Mustang Daily at various interviews over the last two weeks.

The Student Neighborhood Assistance Program, or SNAP, would be a joint effort between the San Luis Obispo Police Department and ASI.

It would establish the use of student intermediaries who would respond to loud party complaints before police would be called.

ASI postponed a final vote Oct. 14, after concerns were raised by students, according to an article in Mustang Daily.

A "patrolling" aspect of the proposal — using SNAP participants to conduct safety patrols in and around student housing areas — was questioned, as was an age requirement for participants.

After amendments to the bill were made based on these concerns and others, ASI again voted to postpone a final vote.

The program would be a joint venture between the city and the campus. San Luis Obispo City Council and mayoral candidates voiced their opinions during interviews on this venture.

"It's an interesting idea," council candidate John Lybarger said. "It's sort of like the Guardian Angels."

Lybarger mentioned some positive points of the city and the advantages to working together.

"This is still the city of smiles," he said. "You smile on the streets of other towns and they think you're a dirty old man or something."

Cal Poly professor Allen Settle and political science senior Brent Petersen supported the SNAP program.

But Richie Ray Walker predicted broken glass and

See SNAP, page 6

Students flee from UC, CSU systems

By Kelly Gregor
Staff Writer

The idea of graduating from college in four years may seem laughable at Cal Poly, but some students are holding firm to that traditional school of thought.

And they're willing to leave the California public system to do it.

According to recent news reports, many California students are turning away from the UC and CSU systems and opting instead for private schools or public colleges out of the state.

This fall's enrollment for the CSU is estimated at 347,000, said CSU spokeswoman Colleen Bentley-Adler. That marks a decline of 15,000 students from last year.

Fewer classes due to state budget cuts may be partly to blame for that drop in enrollment, she said. Across the 20 CSU campuses, 1,500 courses have been eliminated.

Universities in Nevada, Arizona and Colorado have seen a jump in the number of Californians attending their schools, according to the Los Angeles Times. It blamed cutbacks and overcrowding for pushing students out of California, claiming students are willing to pay more and leave the state to get smaller classes with more to choose from.

At Cal Poly, the shrinking number of prospective students reflects this "exodus" from California.

Although the number of qualified high school students in California has been on the rise, the overall applicant pool for new freshmen at Cal Poly has declined in the past three years, according to Admissions Director Jim Maraviglia.

"It's sad," Maraviglia said. "In theory, higher education in California is one to be modeled, but it's not serving its mandate because of the budget deficit."

While some students affected by the cuts may choose to transfer out of the system, officials say that doesn't seem to be a big problem at Cal Poly.

"Our students want the degree they started to get," said Barbara Weber, department head of home economics.

Weber's department was slated last year to be phased out over the next few years. In spite

See ENROLLMENT, page 6

Voters to decide on legalizing physician-aided death

People with terminal illnesses would be able to authorize their own end

By Krystn Shrieve
Staff Writer

Many California physicians are expressing their opposition to a proposition that would allow terminally ill patients in the state to decide when they will die.

Proposition 161, a proposed law called Physician Aid in Dying, would make California the first state to legalize physician-aided death if it is passed in the Nov. 3 election.

The initiative would allow "a mentally competent adult to sign a written request authorizing a physician to provide aid-in-dying after a terminal illness has been diagnosed."

According to the proposition, aid-in-dying is defined as a medical procedure such as a lethal injection, administered in a painless, humane and dignified manner.

Under today's law, a doctor who injects a patient with legal drugs can be tried for murder.

It is also currently a felony in California for a doctor to assist a murder by writing a prescription for drugs that will knowingly be used to accelerate death.

This is the second time this year the issue has faced a public vote. A similar measure was defeated by Washington state voters last fall.

Comparable laws have also been discussed in Michigan, where Dr. Jack Kevorkian's suicide machine was used to help five people die.

Dr. Steven Hansen, a representative to the California Medical Association Board of Trustees, said he opposes Proposition 161.

"This initiative was written by an attorney who lost his wife to cancer in 1986," Hansen said. "Back then, the ability to treat pain and depression and organizations like Hospice, were not as active as they are now.

"Today we have better drugs and ability to treat pain and can avoid the need for this sort of thing," he added.

"I understand the frustration he felt about seeing his wife die," Hansen said. "The proposition was well-intended, but he didn't do his homework when he wrote it. There were a lot of things missing."

Hansen said he is concerned that the proposition doesn't offer enough safeguards and said it could lead to an irreversible mistake and tragic loss of life.

"Sometimes doctors make mistakes," he said. "I know a patient who has stomach cancer and was told she had only nine months left to live. That was 17 years ago and she's still alive today.

"Doctors have years of training," Hansen added. "We're good, but we're not perfect. The New England Journal of Medicine, which is one of the leading medical journals in the country, did a study which compared the diagnosis before death with the postmortem report. Doctors were wrong 25 percent of the time.

"That's a lot when you're talking about life and death," he said.

Another factor concerning Hansen is that there is no residency requirement for the doctors who perform this procedure.

"What about Dr. Kevorkian?" he said. "We all wonder about him. Of all the patients he has killed, only one was actually terminally ill.

"Dr. Kevorkian has a California license," Hansen added. "I'm worried he's going to come here and form what we call the KKK, the 'Kevorkian Killing Klinic.'

"I'm concerned there will be unscrupulous doctors coming in from all over the country to set up death clinics," he said.

Dr. Rene Bravo, president-elect of the San Luis Obispo Medical Society, shares Hansen's concern about corrupt doctors.

"I am worried about death doctors springing up all over the state," Bravo said. "If this passes, California will be the only place in the world where doctors would be allowed to aid a patient in their death. Do we really want to be known as the suicide capitol of the world?"

Bravo also said people requesting physician-assisted suicide need not be California residents. He said California taxpayers will have to pay the bill when people come to California to take advantage of the law.

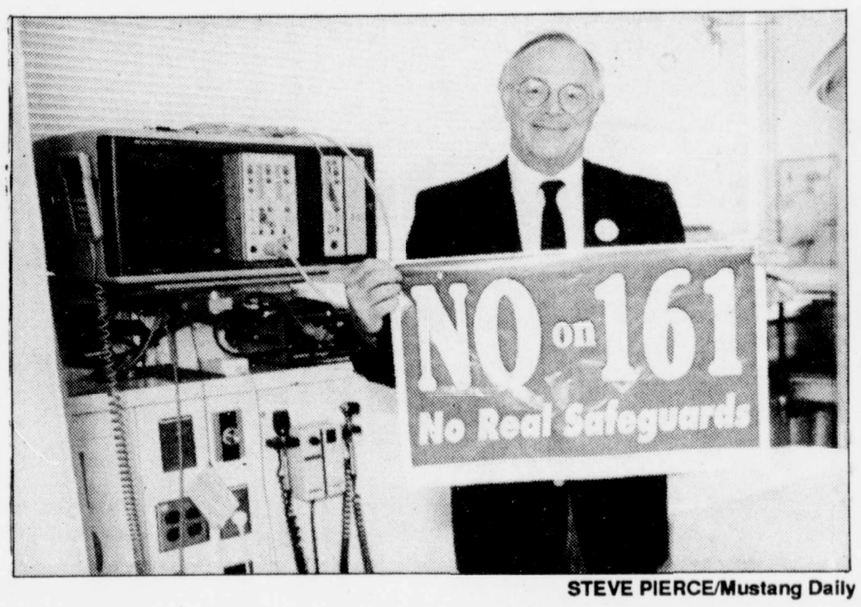
"It could make our state a magnet to people who are contemplating death," he said. "It would be a burden to our already collapsing health care system. This proposition is fraught with more danger than good."

See DIE, page 7

A decision to

DIE

Today: *Some local doctors say they aren't supportive of Prop. 161.*
Wednesday: *Local clergy discuss their concerns.*
Thursday: *Why one local man says Prop. 161 is long overdue.*



STEVE PIERCE/Mustang Daily

Dr. Steven Hansen has strong opinions on Prop 161.

INSIDE

Campus
African-American sororities spread the word to stop the spread of AIDS / **page three**

Tuesday's expanded opinion section
Peter Hartlaub is impressed with the quality of this year's candidates / **page four**

Anita Kreile says if E equals M C squared, why can't she find a square for her car? / **page five**

WORLD

Slain exchange student's parents urge U.S. gun ban

TOKYO (AP) — Parents of a Japanese high school exchange student who was fatally shot in Louisiana urged today at his funeral that the United States ban guns to prevent similar tragedies.

Masakazu Hattori asked some 1,000 mourners to sign a petition that he said would be sent to President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. Japan already prohibits its citizens from owning handguns.

Hattori's 16-year-old son, Yoshihiro, was shot to death Oct. 17 in Baton Rouge, La., when he went to the wrong house while looking for a Halloween party.

He did not heed the homeowner's order to "freeze" — an English word he did not understand — and was shot in the chest with a .44-caliber Magnum at close range.

His death shocked many Japanese, unused to the idea of ordinary homeowners wielding guns.

"America is a wonderful country, but has one defect — that laws permit the people to use guns," Hattori told the people attending his son's funeral. They included 140 students from his son's Asahigaoka Prefectural High School in Nagoya, central Japan.

Yoshihiro was studying at a high school in Baton Rouge under a scholarship.

He was wearing a disco-era John Travolta costume when he was shot that Saturday night by Rodney Peairs. Lewis Unglesby, Peairs' attorney, has said crime was a problem in the neighborhood and in the dark it was not clear that Hattori was just a boy in a Halloween costume.

Peairs, 30, has not been charged.

NATION

Senate incumbents receive nine times more from PACs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special interest groups have donated nine times more political action committee money to Senate incumbents than their respective challengers, a campaign watchdog group's analysis shows.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., was the Senate's top PAC fund-raiser with $1.79 million through Sept. 30 while Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., was a close second at $1.77 million, Common Cause said.

In all, PACS gave $32.65 million through Sept. 30 to the 28 incumbents running for re-election compared to just $3.72 million to the 29 challengers in those races, the group said.

The 9-to-1 gap is more than double the 4-to-1 margin in PAC fund-raising in the 1990 Senate races, Common Cause said.

"The anti-incumbent mood of the country doesn't appear to have penetrated the world of Washington-based special interest PACs," Common Cause President Fred Wertheimer said.

PACs, which collect donations from individual members of their sponsoring group then direct aggregate amounts to candidates, are the main avenue through which special interest groups and businesses donate to congressional races. They can give $5,000 per candidate per election.

In all, 19 Senate incumbents each raised $1 million or more from PACs in the 1992 election cycle, the group said.

No challenger made the $1 million threshold.

STATE

City wants to ban dancing; says it promotes violence

ALAMEDA (AP) — Residents of this island community don't have any dry levees to drive their Chevys to, but they may soon find that their music has died.

Vice Mayor Karin Lucas recently suggested outlawing public dancing after residents and police complained of rowdiness on weekends, including some youths toting guns and drugs to the clubs.

At the center of the controversy is the Twilight Zone, a weekend spot that plays rhythm and blues music on Fridays, punk and hard-rock on Saturdays, and big-band music on Sundays.

The police department, which issues dance permits, said it must beef up security on Fridays and Saturdays around the downtown club because of the tough crowd drawn there.

"The club initially opened to youths of Alameda. But now it's clientele varies, drawing from this city and out of town," said Lt. Greg Garrett.

"Hundreds of people pour out when the club closes. That creates an enforcement problem," he said.

But Twilight Zone owner Ray Jordan said his club is being targeted because it attracts a predominantly black crowd on Friday nights.

"You can have a bowling alley; you don't need a permit to bowl," Jordan said.

Officers have threatened that his dance permit would be in jeopardy unless, "I quit catering to a black crowd," he said.

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DR. ROBERT BERNS

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Sororities host STD seminar

Speaker says black women also face risk of AIDS

By B.J. Raines
Staff Writer

A San Luis Obispo County Health Department spokesperson brought her "No Glove, No Love" seminar to Cal Poly Wednesday night.

Joyce Walton, a communicable disease investigator for the Health Department, spoke of what she called "startling" numbers for people in the African-American community.

About 40 people attended, most of whom were African-American women.

Walton said African-American women are disproportionately affected by sexually transmitted diseases.

Walton told the group that getting the correct information about sexually transmitted diseases is only the first step in fighting the problem.

"You've got to get the word out (and) share this information, too," Walton said, "because I can't do it alone. You can make this information spread like the diseases spread, instead of by habit, by word of mouth."

Chlamydia, venereal warts and herpes are an epidemic on the Cal Poly and Cuesta campuses, Walton said.

She said more and more young people are going to the Health Department to be treated.

"If half of all the women who have it are black women... we need to know because we don't think we get (the virus)."

Mone't Parham
Delta Sigma Theta

The cure for chlamydia, a bacterial infection, is antibiotics that will "knock 'em right out," Walton said.

She cautioned the group about the importance of completing the treatment.

"People are making this bacteria stronger by not finishing the medication," she said.

Walton also discussed HIV, or Human Immuno Deficiency Virus. HIV is not AIDS, she said.

Walton said HIV suppresses the immune system and weakens the body's ability to fight-off diseases. When the immune system is severely suppressed, the body is left open to opportunistic diseases, she said.

Walton said the Health Department has a list of 25 diseases, and when one of these diseases is present in an individual who is HIV positive, that person is diagnosed as "living with AIDS."

"I say living with AIDS because it's not the immediate death sentence it was in the beginning," she said. "In the early years, you heard about somebody with the virus and they were gone a year, or two, or three later.

"But now, we've got people who are around ten years later after being diagnosed," Walton added. "They have HIV, but they don't have AIDS. That's what the importance of this is, because people die when they have AIDS."

There is still no cure for AIDS, Walton said. Keeping people well long enough to find something better is the key, she added.

Walton said AZT and two other drugs help keep the virus from spreading so quickly.

"They don't cure you," she said. "They slow down the activity of the virus. That's where protecting yourself comes in."

Alondra Thompson and Mone't Parham, presidents of Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta, Cal Poly's two black sororities, invited Walton to speak on campus during the October AIDS Awareness Month.

Thompson and Parham said they felt it was important to get the information out.

"It just backed-up what I thought about African-American women," Parham said. "If half of all the women who have it are black women, that's something we need to know because we don't think we get (the virus)."

African-Americans, AIDS and STDs

African-Americans are disproportionately affected by AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In fact:

- Incidence of syphilis is 54 times higher in the African-American community than in the Anglo community.
- Incidence of gonorrhea is 39 times higher;
- Most children born with HIV — the virus which causes AIDS — are African-American.
- One in three people with AIDS are African-Americans.
- Most women with AIDS are African-Americans.
- Approximately one-half of interveinous drug users with AIDS are African-Americans.

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department Of Health

Here's one election promise you can count on.

Next Wednesday, turn to us. We'll have all the results from the local, state and national races and initiatives. Some say it'll be good to get this election behind us.
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MUSTANG DAILY

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- Additional student and Faculty housing at Cal Poly
- Greek Row on or adjacent to campus
- Formation of Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Continued free bus transportation for university students
- Bikeways throughout the city
- Expanded City and university job and contract opportunities
- Increased importance of student-city liaison committee
- Development of a performing arts center
- Bringing back the strong academic features of Poly Royal
- Undergraduate job opportunities with corporate sponsors
- Increased liaison between ASI & Residents for Quality Neighborhoods
- Deciding city policies affecting students only when Cal Poly is in session.

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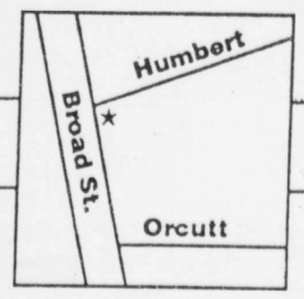

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COMMENTARY

A light at the end of the election tunnel...

By Peter Hartlaub

My opinions have been published semi-regularly in Mustang Daily for almost two years now. While some have been serious and some not, I've always guaranteed the reader at least three or four paragraphs that have no societal value whatsoever.

That is why this is my most difficult literary endeavor.

Basically I've finally found something important enough to write about that I have to keep out the crap. All of it. No bashing right-wingers. No profanity. No comparisons to television shows. Here goes...

Over the last month Mustang Daily's editorial staff has met with 11 out of the 12 City Council and mayoral candidates for the purposes of educating ourselves and making an endorsement. We asked all of them the same three questions and afterwards issued individual questions. In the end they all had time to add anything they wished.

At any one interview the majority (four) of the editorial staff was present.

I was impressed a great many times with all the candidates, but two areas are particularly noteworthy:

1. Attendance.

I expected a little more than half to respond to my letter of invitation. I almost got a plurality. This shows that whoever is elected recognizes and respects the Cal Poly vote. All the candidates seemed enthusiastic to talk and many even had criticism that the 1/2 hour we met was not enough time (sorry, we were on deadline!)

2. Knowledge.

The candidates knew a lot about a lot of issues, including those on campus. One question asked to every candidate is "Where do you stand on the SNAP issue?" Only one candidate had no clue what the Student Neighborhood Assistance Program was. They seemed informed and interested in Cal Poly and could talk with intelligence about many aspects of the community. The opportunity to interview candidates was not only a process of endorsement but a learning experience.

And at the end of these interviews I have wonderful news. I feel that virtually every candidate was qualified. It doesn't matter what your priority for this city is — there's probably a perfect candidate waiting for you.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Mustang Daily editorial staff will make endorsements for mayor and City Council. This will be the majority opinion of seven people on what they think is best for the community.

But don't ever accept anyone's endorsements as right or wrong. Find out what you want for this community and the chances are there is a qualified candidate who will meet your needs.

Talk to your friends or someone in the city you respect. Or come down to Mustang Daily – we have lots of candidate information on file.

Make your own decision and make it very carefully.

And then count yourself lucky that you live in an area where you don't have to pick the lesser evil but instead the greater good.

Good luck to all.

...I'm done and it was difficult. My hands are shaking and I've broken a sweat. Keeping out the profanity was the hardest part.

More crap next week...

Peter Hartlaub is Editor-in-Chief of Mustang Daily. He reported mostly sports two years ago and was Opinion Editor last year. He'll finally go away in June.

MUSTANG DAILY

ELECTION '92

ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Over the course of the last few weeks, the editorial staff of Mustang Daily interviewed 11 of the 12 candidates running for mayoral and city council seats in San Luis Obispo. Starting Wednesday, the Daily will begin a series of endorsements based on those interviews; a majority vote by the editors determined each endorsement. The series will run as follows:

Wednesday: *Endorsement for San Luis Obispo Mayoral Candidate.*

Thursday: *Endorsement for San Luis Obispo City Council Candidates.*

Friday: *National Endorsement.*

Mustang Daily Policies

Commentaries and reporter's notebooks are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Mustang Daily. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial staff.

Letters to the editor should be typed, less than 250 words, and should include the author's name, phone number and major or occupation. Because of space limitations, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing in Mustang Daily.

Commentaries should be between two and three pages (between 800 and 1,000 words), double-spaced, and turned in to the opinion editor's box at Mustang Daily. Commentaries are welcome from students, faculty and members of the community. Mustang Daily's opinion staff reserves the right to edit letters and commentaries for length, accuracy and clarity. Submissions to the opinion page or inquiries about Mustang Daily can be made at the Mustang Daily office, Graphic Arts room 226.

EDITORIAL

SNAP: Nice try, but no cigar

The Issue: ASI's vote to move forward with the proposed SNAP (Student Neighborhood Assistance Program). ASI will vote tonight on whether to proceed to the next phase of the program or drop the proposal altogether.

The Decision: ASI should vote to continue SNAP.

Unfortunately, the decision that ASI should adopt the SNAP proposal is a qualified one.

Granted, SNAP is one of the best ideas for a student-community relations program to come along in recent memory. Many of the San Luis Obispo City Council candidates emphatically supported the program when asked for their views; however, the fact remains, at least in the eyes of Mustang Daily, that the program is doomed to failure.

The importance of a positive relationship between the city of San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly is the primary motivator behind continuing SNAP. It is a rare thing to see the city and the campus working together so closely, and in working toward seeing the program to its conclusion will, in the opinion of the Daily, result in further strengthening of this vital relationship.

The fact remains, however, that SNAP is an extremely optimistic program at best.

Many questions still remain about the proposed program which should have been answered by this time in the program's evolution.

For example:

How is the logistical problem of responses to Valencia and Stenner Glen, who have their own security, to be handled?

How are Cuesta students, who make up another significant segment of the city's population, to be involved?

Who is going to volunteer for the program once its starts?

On paper, SNAP sounds like the answer to a lot of the city and student's problems, and is definitely worth the vote to continue this attempt at furthering positive relations.

In reality, the program seems little more than a glorified "Good Neighbor Day."

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Einstein's theory of parking

By Anita Kreile

Albert Einstein was an amazing man. Sure, he made some mistakes and had weird hair, but he also possessed spectacular insight. He was able to to reach out to the the farthest corners of a duality and gather them into a wad of contemplation upon which he would chew, until a bubble of wisdom issued forth from his mouth to burst in humanity's face.

He could also be incredibly indecisive.

As he drove down life's boulevard and came to the crossroads of art and science he just stood there, looking.

His observation was, "The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science...I am satisfied with the mystery of the eternity of life."

What it is man?

One morning last week, I asked that question.

I opened my eyes, looked at my clock and blinked in disbelief. How did this happen? I was late, really late.

Looking at the clock again, I winced. I had a test at 8 a.m., it was quarter to 9 a.m.

How did this happen? My alarm was indeed set for 7:30 — p.m. Science meets art.

I sprang into action.

First off, I reminded myself, my clock is strategically set 20 minutes fast for just such an occasion. Second, it's a three hour class; there was still time. Third, as I leaped out of bed, I discovered I was already dressed. What a break!

A splash of perfume to cover up last night's Eau de McLintock's and a baseball cap and I was out'a there at warp speed.

I instantaneously acquired religion. I chanted, "I will not get pulled over, I will not get pulled over," as I ran one stop sign, two yellow lights and made an illegal left turn. I might have also killed a cat, I'm not sure (it looked like it ran away, but it could have been rolling).

The mystery of the eternity of life.

Now this may sound like my day was getting off to a bad start, but the truth is, a miracle was about to happen.

I pulled up to what I thought was a parking space, only to find it one foot smaller than the smallest car in the world, which I don't own.

Knowing my newfound God wouldn't fail me, I moved on.

I was right. A second space loomed just ahead.

I whipped in, jumped out and took off running, stopping in dismay when I noticed the rear end of my truck intruding into a driveway. I jumped back in.

The mystery of the eternity of life.

Pulling away, I noticed there was one car in front of me, then a red zone, which the owner of the car obviously didn't understand the meaning of.

Here's how it works folks; red means don't park here, ever, under any circumstances. Red does not mean don't park within five feet of here!

That numbskull had robbed me of my parking space. I felt betrayed. After all, God had saved it for me; what right did this person have to render it useless?

Speeding toward a side street, I repeated my mantra.

That's when the miracle happened. I suddenly had the answer to a question that has plagued me my entire life; a question that has plagued every liberal arts major since the beginning of time.

Why do we need math?

And there it was, as plain as 12 feet of Ford Pinto hogging 35 feet of curb space.

Now granted, the reason for this transgression should have been readily apparent to me. Here was a person who chose the Dan Quayle of automobiles as his status symbol.

Being satisfied with the mystery of the eternity of stupidity, I proceeded to flip-out.

"You ignorant moron! Can't you see this curb is made for two cars, what's your problem, can't you add?"

I froze, overcome with the enormity of what had just occurred.

I had, for the first time in my life, issued forth an utterance of praise for the value of mathematics — truly a product of divine intervention.

Let me explain.

Ask me what two and two is and I'll tell you it's Chuck Woolery doin' his thing on Love Connection. I'm serious.

The side of my brain responsible for creating any kind of interest in mathematical activity has refused to participate for as long as I could remember. Suddenly the other side of my brain was exclaiming, "We need this stuff!"

A miracle. Mystery unveiled in a moment of fury.

Up until now, my idea of a quadratic equation was figuring out how to stuff four bonbons in my mouth at once.

I remember the relief I felt after reading this passage in a letter written by Einstein.

"Do not worry about your difficulties in mathematics; I can assure you mine are still greater."

I was impressed. If Einstein said screw-it, who was I to argue?

I compensated for my lack of mathematical skills by relying on a fundamental emotion derived from the meeting of true science with true art; I eyeballed things. I even became quite good at fractions after years of tending bar.

What's two-fourths of sex-on-the-beach? Easy; a Cape Cod.

I applied the same visual logic to parking spaces.

How many cars belong on that section of curb? Simple, one part me, one part someone else, easy on the rocks and no one's shaken or stirred.

At any given time I can count 15 parking spaces within a half-mile of Poly lost to faulty division. What's wrong with these people? Don't they understand a parking space in this neighborhood is like a blessing from the cosmos, something to be cherished, nurtured, and shared with those less fortunate? Do they defy divinity?

No, they simply suffer from the same numerical paralysis that once affected me. Some victims are in complete denial, unable to solve the simplest puzzle.

One guy explained to me he needed to leave room to get out. Huh? I gently showed him the driveway located behind his car, looked deep into his eyes and asked, "Why can't you back up?"

Channeling my stupefaction into a lightning burst of speed, I sprinted for class. Filled with the fundamental emotion of being pissed-off, I was satisfied with the mystery of the eternity of searching for a parking space.

Anita Kreile is a journalism senior; this is her first quarter reporting for Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strong support for Measure F

From our standpoint, we strongly support a new community hospital. We are totally convinced that having General has helped hold down the tremendous costs of hospital care in this area. We also believe that "for profit" means exactly what it says. How long would such a hospital endure if they didn't recover their full costs plus a goodly percentage for profit to satisfy their owners? We are strong believers in the need for decent profits for most businesses, but somehow, when it comes to hospital care, potentially large profits might be viewed as unconscionable. We fail to be convinced that there is any possible savings to the county by looking to the private hospitals for 100 percent of our needs.

We all must bear in mind that without a new building, General will quickly cease to exist. It cannot continue in the present facilities without major remodeling which has already been ruled out as a viable alternative due to age and cost.

Also, the anticipated financial advantage to us of up to 50 percent of the cost being funded under SB 1732 is enormous. No such advantage is possible if the county does not proceed with a new hospital. We would then begin to pay our full share of the millions now being spent (with much more to come), to bring the aging for-profit facilities up to date.

We have been patients at General for four surgeries over the past few years, ranging from day-surgery to very major surgery. We will attest to the fine care provided by their staff. The free Mentor program was also excellent, saving us hundreds of dollars, providing private rooms and even sending us home with two full hot meals, a great assist on the day of discharge!

Who needs Measure F? We do!!

Dorothy & Bert Harris
Los Osos residents

General not needed: no on F

Twice, I have been a private patient at General Hospital. The service and staff were outstanding. And, I am voting no on Measure F.

Many people believe indigents can only go to General Hospital — this is not true. For the past nine years, the County Health Agency has contracted with all four private hospitals and collectively, they treat more indigent inpatient adults than General Hospital.

The county's payment to private hospitals is about 1/3 of the cost of General Hospital. Arroyo Grande and Twin Cities receive $550/day and French and Sierra Vista receive $715/day. The taxpayer's cost of supporting General Hospital is about $1,800 per patient, per day. Inpatient censes of SLO County's private hospitals is about 40 percent. General Hospital's average occupancy is 21.4 percent, or 16 people per day, and 70 percent of this is obstetrics. Long term bond costs are projected to be over $100 million.

Building a new General Hospital does not meet our county's health needs. We should establish accessible outpatient clinics throughout the county in the areas of projected growth. The SART Program and the Kidney Dialysis Unit, which are at General Hospital, could become free-standing or move to private hospitals.

According to several local doctors, General Hospital has not communicated with them or attempted to persuade them to refer patients (paying or otherwise). Recently, when my mother-in-law broke her hip, I requested the ambulance take her to General. Her doctor refused to treat her if she was taken to General.

When the government says, "Trust me...build a new hospital, the patients will come," one has to ask, from where and who will pay? In this time of economic crisis, we must change the way we solve problems.

We, the voters, must demand this change. Your no vote on Measure F will force our elected representatives to become creative.

Pandora Nash-Karner
Los Osos resident

Why to vote yes for Measure D

Why should you vote YES for Measure D?

As the retired Parks and Beaches Director for San Luis Obispo County, this is an important issue to the unincorporated voter. Since my retirement 16 years ago, the county has not constructed or purchased any new park lands, except a small neighborhood park in Santa Margarita. With the continued growth in this county, and the current budget problems, the eligible voters need to endorse Measure D.

This measure will stabilize funding for parks. It will not raise your taxes, but will ensure moneys allocated to parks to be spent for that purpose.

Parks, beaches and recreation are an important economic resource for the citizens of the county and visitors to this beautiful area.

Again, I urge you to vote YES for Measure D.

LeRoy O. Sherwin
SLO resident

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ENTERPRISE

SNAP

From page 1

chaos.

"If the students take over the police department's job, you'll have more mayhem than you can even deal with," he said.

Walker described possible mayhem where "beer bottles would be flying everywhere."

"This program is out. O-U-T with a capital T," Walker said.

David Jeffrey liked the idea of the city and students working together but had concerns about SNAP.

"My neighborhood occasionally has parties that get out of hand," Jeffrey said.

"I have reservations whether these parties could be effectively policed by students," he said.

Jeffrey said his main concern would be what scope of jurisdiction SNAP would have.

"If they are acting on behalf of the city they are liable to it," he said.

The city of San Luis Obispo has agreed to assume liability for SNAP, officials say. But because of the cooperative nature of the program, ASI could be held responsible in litigation matters.

Two of the city's mayoral candidates said they were optimistic about the proposal.

"This is something we've been talking about for a number of years and I think it's great," said Peg Pinard.

"(SNAP) is one of the best things going right now," she said.

Penny Rappa mentioned a similar program in Illinois that achieved positive results.

"I hope the success of the program there can be duplicated," she said.

ENROLLMENT

From page 1

of that, Weber said, "we have lost very few students."

The situation is similar for engineering technology, another department being phased out. Department head Kim Davis said only a few students have transferred or switched majors. Of the department's continuing students, he said, most are staying to finish their degree at Cal Poly.

For now, the biggest enrollment problem at Cal Poly seems to be attracting students in the first place, rather than keeping them once they are here.

"Even when you have the largest pool to choose from, you still have to worry," Maraviglia said. "You have to ask: Are you attracting the students you want here?"

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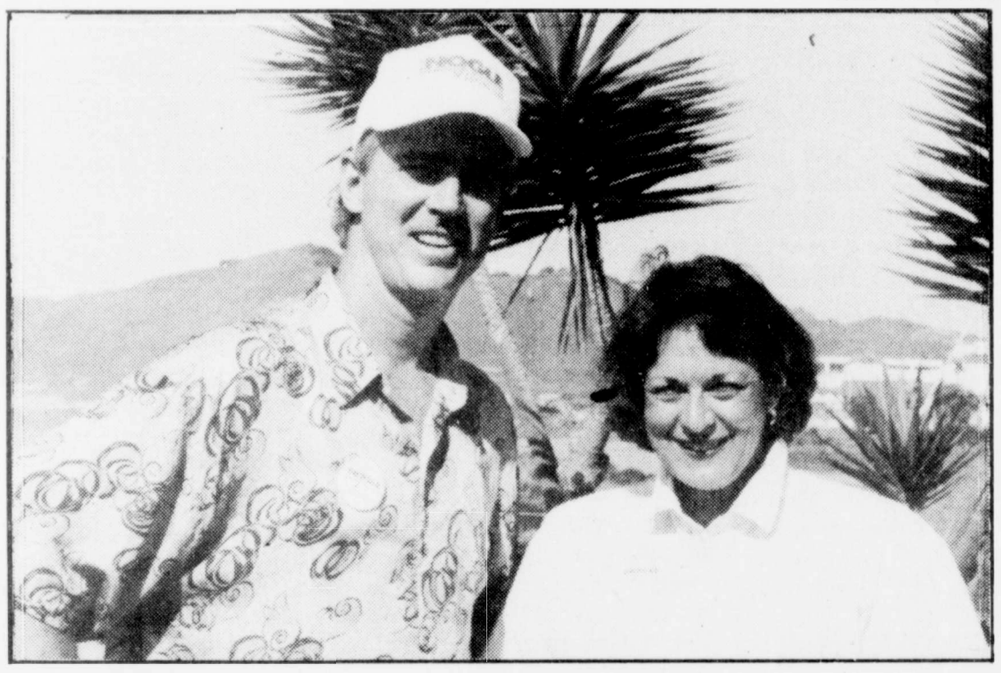

I'm Mike Krukow, Cal Poly Alumni, local businessman and former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants.

I wholeheartedly endorse Wendy Nogle because she is the candidate who truly appreciates the contribution of Cal Poly students to our community. She will work for real job and career opportunities for students and graduates.

After all, we Cal Poly students and graduates are not just "tourists." We support this community, and we deserve jobs and better representation.

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DIE

From page 1

Bravo said he is also concerned about the proposition's lack of a lengthy waiting period.

"To make this decision when you are depressed or in the throes of despair is drastic," Bravo said. "There is no second chance.

"I feel deeply for these patients," he added. "I have seen and felt that despair and I understand their fear and desperation. But (death) is not the answer."

Hansen agreed Proposition 161 should have a waiting period to let the patient think about the finality of his decision.

"Ninety percent of the people who commit suicide are suffering from depression," he said. "Today we treat depression effectively.

"This should be recognized as a cry for help," Hansen added. "Family and physicians can intensify their treatment for depression and pain.

"We have come a long way in our ability to treat the patient and can alleviate pain more effectively now more than ever," he said. "That may be enough."

Dr. James Tedford, a local delegate to the California Medical Association, said he does not think doctors should be allowed to artificially terminate a life.

"Doctors no longer have to prolong a life unnecessarily through machines," he said. "We can allow the machines to be turned off and let the person die naturally."

Bravo agreed.

"There is a big difference between withdrawing life support and letting the patient die on his own and injecting him with something to make him die unnaturally," he said. "It is a medical, ethical quandary."

Tedford said the medical society as a whole opposes the initiative because of the way it is written.

"I am very concerned that Proposition 161 will emotionally grab people, but it is a poorly worded, poorly planned document," Tedford said. "It is dangerous the way it is written.

"There are so many things in question," he added. "The family may not be involved or consulted, the competency of the patient to make this decision is not adequately discussed and the nature of what exactly constitutes terminal illness is questionable."

Bravo also said there were too many loopholes and too much lack of certainty.

"One thing that scares me, is that no witnesses are required to be present when the injection is administered," he said.

Although Proposition 161 requires two witnesses to sign a person's life directive, it does not require any witnesses to be present when the person's life is actually terminated.

"Somebody could be forced to endure this against his will, or could change his mind at the last minute," Bravo said. "There would be no witness to save him from an unethical doctor."

Bravo also said the proposition did not specify which doctors could aid a patient in death.

"It says any medical doctor could do this. Technically a plastic surgeon could be used," he said. "It's unlikely this would ever happen, but the problem is, it's a possibility. There just aren't enough safeguards."

Bravo said the California Hospice Association, the California Nurses Association, the California Medical Association, various AIDS networks and many Catholic churches oppose the proposition.

"This is a broad-based coalition," he said. "The opposition consists of people who are as far as right as possible, as far left as possible and everyone in between.

"This is the first time people from so many different beliefs have come together to oppose something so strongly," Bravo added. "Even the AIDS caregivers, who you would think would approve of this are against it. The reasons are strong."

Supporters of the proposition argue that mentally competent adults with a terminal illness should have the right to choose to eliminate pain and suffering and to die with dignity at the time and place they believe appropriate.

However, Hansen, Tedford and Bravo said they were not aware of any doctors in San Luis Obispo County who approve of Proposition 161.

"There are doctors who would argue this wouldn't be unethical," Tedford said. "(But) to be opposed to the initiative in the way it is written is easy. The ethical decision is more difficult.

"It is a medical decision, not necessarily an ethical decision," he said. "We don't argue against the proposition because it is unethical, but because it is unsound."

Hansen said voters shouldn't be swayed by sympathy.

"The sympathy for the patients is there," he said. "It is real. People think of old person who is alone, in pain or suffering and can't help but wonder if this is the answer.

"It's cynical of our society to think we have the right to let a doctor actively kill a patient rather than surrounding him with love and care and treatment," Hansen said.

"I implore the voters to think hard before they decide how to vote," he added. "It is truly a matter of life and death."

Jerry Reiss MAYOR

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