Student senate files suit against Poly

BY MARY McALISTER
Staff Writer

A recent court decision reaffirming binding arbitration in faculty grievance cases as just that - binding - has provoked different reactions from involved parties.

The decision, which was handed down by the California Court of Appeals on October 9, 1980, is proclaimed a landmark case by some and a reaffirmation of existing law by others.

The court's decision states that while the president of a state university may reject a decision by a campus faculty grievance committee, if the decision is appealed to an arbitrator, the arbitrator's decision is final and may not be overruled by the campus president.

According to Mayer Chapman, spokesman for CSUC Chancellor Glenn S. Dumke, university presidents do not habitually reject arbitrator's decisions unless there is a question of whether the arbitrator is acting within legal boundaries.

Brown also realizes that because of the diversity of class requirements, a single set of criteria cannot be used to evaluate all classes. Yet, by relating the grading policy to the course objectives, Brown feels a fair grade should result.

The resolution proposes that the new grade definitions read as follows:

- B: High level of achievement of course objectives. This level of performance is well above that required for progress toward graduation and for enrollment in subsequent courses for which this course is a prerequisite.
- C: Satisfactory achievement of course objective. A level of performance which is acceptable for progress toward graduation and for enrollment in subsequent courses for which this course is a prerequisite.
- D: Achieves course objectives at a minimum or prefunctory level. A minimum passing performance. An accumulation of such grades can result in academic disqualification from the university. It is recommended that this course be repeated prior to enrollment in subsequent courses for which this course is a prerequisite.

Letter grades may be re-defined

BY LORI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A resolution to revise the catalog definitions of letter grades will be presented to the academic senate on January 20, said the chairman of the academic senate instruction committee.

"What the resolution is, in effect, is an expansion of the current grade definitions," said Ron Brown.

With the definitions, Brown said the committee hopes to establish a relationship between a student's grade, class performance, continuance in a sequel course, and progress toward graduation.

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Recent Court ruling cools arbitration conflict

BY CYNTHIA BARAKATT
Staff Writer

The ASI student senate filed a suit against the university over last year's firing of the University Union manager, struck down a proposal to limit the number of groups eligible for revenue sharing funds and reported the formation of an Affirmative Action Committee in a flurry of activity at its weekly meeting Wednesday night.

ASI Vice President Nick Forestieri said the senate agreed during an executive session to file a counter-claim against the university in the Martha Blood case.

ASI President Willie Huff said he was not at liberty to discuss the substance of the counter charges until they became public record, as such discussion could damage the ASI's case.

The ASI was named in a $20,000 breach of contract suit filed by Blood after she was fired as university Union manager for alleged unprofessional conduct and failure to perform normal and reasonable duties.

Blood filed charges because she didn't think her dismissal was fair and because of the delay involved in reviewing her case, Forestieri said.

Forestieri noted that the suit represents one of the few such actions against the university, the last involving former Cal Poly President Robert E. Kennedy's refusal to allow the Gay Students Union on campus.

The senate also denied a motion to limit General Revenue Sharing funds to coded groups.

The current revenue sharing bill states that students may designate one dollar of their $30 ASI fee to the organization of their choice.

The proposal would have limited the funds to the 70 coded groups which receive ASI funds, thereby eliminating the 226 bylaw groups which do not receive ASI funding.

Brown also feels that because of the diversity of class requirements, a single set of criteria cannot be used to evaluate all classes. Yet, by relating the grading policy to the course objectives, Brown feels a fair grade should result.

The proposal would have limited the funds to the 70 coded groups which receive ASI funds, thereby eliminating the 226 bylaw groups which do not receive ASI funding.

After considerable debate, the senate defeated the motion, 15-11.

President Huff announced the formation of an Affirmative Action Committee which will coordinate student affirmative action programs.

The committee will oversee several programs to aid minorities including helping them get financial aid, scheduling talks with high schools, and improving relations with area schools to try to attract quality minorities to Cal Poly.

Ron Scholtz, executive assistant for city relations presented plans for the 1981 Voter Awareness Registration Drive to be held in conjunction with the city election March 5.

The drive will include voter registration booths set up on campus from Jan. 19 to 23 and Jan. 26 to 30. He noted that he boooths had been used in past drives at no cost.

A candidate forum is also planned for Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. in the University Union plaza.

The senate also approved a resolution for senate representatives to ask Congressman Leon Panetta and Sen. H.I. Hayakawa and Alan Cranston to take action on a national holiday honoring the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In other business, the senate agreed to set the proposed ASI fee increase as an item on the January 21 agenda when all reports will be due.

The senate also approved the appointment of Dennis Hawk as presidential assistant and representative to the CSSA.

Student senate files suit against Poly

General revenue sharing limits denied

BY MARY McALISTER
Staff Writer

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Brown calls for budget slash

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Declaring it is "simply not possible" to continue state spending at current levels, Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. said Thursday that state operations in the coming year must be cut 10 percent compared to the preceding budget.

In his annual address to the Legislature, Brown painted a gloomy picture of state finances and said the lawmakers must "painfully choose" to balance the 1981-82 budget without a tax increase.

The response to the Democratic governor's 9½-minute address was restrained and predictable. Republicans labeled it as a speech of empty rhetoric. Some Democrats praised Brown for offering a realistic approach to the state's budget problems, but both Democrat and Republican legislators objected to his proposed cuts in school, local government and welfare programs.

Brown said the budget bill he will submit to the Legislature on Saturday will propose an increase of only 0.2 percent in spending on general state operations, which "will fall 10 percent below the rate of inflation."

"That means painful choices that we have to make together," Brown said.

But despite those financial limits, Brown said California should increase spending on a handful of items ranging from electronics research at the University of California to an expansion of the California Conservation Corps.

"It is utterly essential to continue new investments in our economy so that renewed prosperity will allow us to meet future needs," he said.

He also proposed setting aside $120 million for new crime-fighting programs which are expected to be spelled out in his budget message Saturday.

Power failure strikes four states

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A massive power failure struck the entire state of Utah and parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada on Thursday, knocking out electricity to more than 1½ million people, cutting off radio and television stations and disrupting phone service.

Ski lifts, elevators and traffic signals also lost power during the blackout, which occurred at 11:38 a.m. MST.

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 Clubs reach for the sky to stop Diablo licensing

BY DAVE BRACKNEY
Staff Writer

Efforts to stop the opening of PG&E's and Electric Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant are reaching skyward Saturday when members of Cal Poly's Ecology Action Club participate in a "balloon launch" to take place near the plant.

Members of the club collected donations and made preparations for the balloons Thursday in the UU Plaza. Students who made contributions also filled out cards to be attached to one of the balloons that will be let loose at the plant's gates Saturday.

The purpose of the launch is to demonstrate how far winds could carry radiation from Diablo Canyon in a nuclear accident. Each card will have the donor's name written on it and will explain the purpose of the launch. People finding the balloons will be urged to return the cards to the headquarters of the Abalone Alliance in San Luis Obispo.

The Abalone Alliance, a coalition of anti-nuclear groups is sponsoring the event, which will begin at 12:30 p.m. in Avila Beach. After singing a few songs and listening to speeches, people carrying balloons will walk to the plant's gates where from there a balloon will be launched. Bay Roestrevor, a member of the Ecology Action Club said the event will be "mainly a symbolic gesture against nuclear power."

Following the event will be a $2.50 per person dinner served at Rancho El Chorro Park, located across from Cuesta College on State Highway 1.

Another member of the club, Chris Whitbey, said that after a similar balloon launch in 1979, cards from balloons were returned from as far away as the Sierra Nevada mountains. In addition to spreading the word about the anti-Diablo Canyon movement, Whitbey said the launch will also raise money for future activities.

Saturday's launch, Whitbey said, will be the beginning of a large media campaign in San Luis Obispo by several anti-nuclear power groups including the Ecology Action Club. Whitbey said they will seek to inform the public of Diablo Canyon's possible hazards through the use of billboards, newspaper ads and a series of films at Cal Poly about nuclear power.

One club member summed up Saturday's event saying "Our symbolism may go skyward, but our fight's still just beginning down to earth."

Heart disease or stroke can cheat you out of the best years of your life.

GAY STUDENTS UNION
WE'RE HERE TO HELP

MONDAYS 7:30 PM SCI BLDG. RM E-28

SAN LUIS OBISPO- Peggy Greenberg

Cal Poly students Chris Whitby and Sandy Jordan, in an attempt to drum up some support for the Ecology Action Club and Abalone Alliance-sponsored balloon launch to dramatize how far radiation could spread in a nuclear accident.

Management head takes post

A new department head for Cal Poly's management department has been selected and will assume his new position this month.

Dr. Robert Coe, joined the faculty committee in the recommendation of Dr. McIntire.

McIntire attended Oklahoma State University, University of Colorado and University of Washington where he earned a Ph.D. in business administration.

Before coming to Cal Poly, McIntire was an administrator and faculty member at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. He is also a faculty member at the University of Texas at Permian Basin, where he became coordinator of the Aviation Management Program.

McIntire will succeed Dr. Ernest Miller, who has been acting head of the management department since early this year. Miller is expected to return to full-time teaching as a faculty member in the management department.

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Grades could be re-defined

From page 1

F - Fails to achieve course objectives at a minimum level. An inacceptable performance which does not meet requirements for credit toward graduation.

The grade definition resolution was initialed last year when both the CSUC academic senate and

Vegetation talks slated at Poly

A biology professor from USB, J. Robert Haller, will give a multi-media presentation on the vegetation of California and its diversity at 8:15 p.m. Saturday in Cal Poly's Little Theatre. The program is presented by the Cal Poly 90 science department and the California Native Plant Society.

Haller has given his show at many campuses; admission is free.

ASIS RECREATION AND TOURNAMENTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS WINTER QUARTER MINI CLASSES

<table>
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<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DAY/WEEK</th>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<td>7:00-9:00pm</td>
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Sign-ups begin Jan 5 thru Jan 16 at the University Union Ticket Office

Classes begin the week of Jan 19 thru March 2

For further information call 546-2476 or 847-8797.
Home delivery new pizza topping

Five amateur connoisseurs ordered nearly identical pizzas at the same time and waited for the knock on the door. The pizza from Armandillo arrived a good five minutes within the promised half-hour delivery deadline, the pizza was warm, but not hot. The aroma was spicy, the color good. The tasters, however, took a nothing-seems-special about-thin-pie attitude.

The Armandillo pie was gone long before the Woodstock's pizza arrived. Nearly an hour had passed since the telephone call, despite a similar half-hour promise. The tasters, though, picked Woodstock's as a better pizza. The tasters were impressed by the steam rising profusely from the pie as it was brought through the door. The toppings stood higher, the crust folded over on the edge to provide a hefty helping of soft bread. The judges were also impressed by the optional wheat dough. But Woodstock's was late.

Additional differences were pointed out by the managers of the two establishments.

"We are reaching out to the all-night crowd," Woodstock said.

The decor, he said, is completely wood and music is provided by local radio stations.

A spokesman for Armandillo said they were offering two things: a product and service.

"We hand-throw our pizza dough for speed, but also because it's romantic," he said. "The toppings are premium, everything is made fresh daily and nothing is canned or frozen.

"Simplicity is the key," he said.

The taste competition, it should be noted, was not rigorously analyzed, and further studies are encouraged.

Movie review: 'Seasons' pokes fun at New Morality

BY KATHRYN MCKENZIE

Editorial Assistant

For three weeks the hearts of men more than the sight of a bare-breasted "10" emerging from the foam of a hot tub. Therefore, the opening scenes in "A Change Of Seasons" should satisfy most guys' fantasies, but don't expect much in the way of acting in the rest of the movie from Bo Derek.

Derek, who plays voluptuous coed Lindsay Rutledge in the film, is in the midst of a torrid affair with her English professor (Anthony Hopkins). And as would be expected, her wife (Shirley MacLaine) suspects and confronts him with it. However, after she finishes losing sleep over the affair, the wife has a retaliatory affair with an itinerant, frustrated carpenter.

The upshot of this 1980s failure is that Hopkins and MacLaine decide, in the best interests of honesty and openness, to go to their country house—plus their two new loves—which leads to many complicated situations and ultimately to Hopkins' realization that he is jealous of his wife's relationship, although she's not in the least disturbed by him.

The movie is of the type of comedy that plays upon current society's foibles, but does not attempt to explain them or examine them.

Most of the film is very funny, especially the exchange between Hopkins and MacLaine, although when the carpenter lover comes along, MacLaine starts to giggle too much, and this gets tedious after a while.

Hopkins is not entirely convincing when he is supposed to be madly in love, but he is very good as a confused human being. In fact, it makes you wonder why the wife even takes him seriously, given this guy for the past 20 years.

As far as Derek is concerned, yes, she's gorgeous, but as far as the audience is concerned, she's not that interesting. It's hard to feel either affection or dislike for her in her involvement in this love triangle. One just really doesn't care what happens to her at the end.

What is interesting, and is maybe the point for some, is the way that all the younger characters end up going back to the "traditional" values, leaving the old folks to stumble their way through the New Morality. The daughter, (Mary Beth Hurt) is shocked when she discovers the man she's been quarreling with is the family cabin. All she wants to do, it turns out, is get married and live happily ever after.

So much for the new Morality.

It's all played for laughs, though, and there are no great moral statements to be found in this film. Nevertheless, it's a well-acted comic performance by MacLaine, when the director gives her a chance, an enormously talented comic actress, and also knows how to play the sensitive scenes. And it's easy to be glad when, at the end, she wins this battle of manners.

Woman's Chorus concert

The Cal Poly Women's Chorus will present the winter concert for 1981 in the Cal Poly Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 24. The 36-member chorus will sing Stampin's "Canata," Pablo Casals' 'Ngra Sum,' Bela Bartok's "Six Choruses," plus pop selections arranged by Edmund Nayera.

Featured in the "Canata" will be soloists Kenneth Westrick and Kristi Dearing. Westrick is a member of a choral group in Los Angeles and has toured with the Roger Wagner Chorale. Dearing, who teaches at Poly, was previously a soloist with the Color-Chromatic Orchestra and has taught at the University of Virginia and University of Illinois.

Tickets are now available from the music department office, Room 129 of the Davidson Music Center. Tickets are $5 for adults, $4 for students, and $3 for groups of 10 or more.

The concert is presented by the School of Communication Arts and Humanities, the music department, and the ASI Concerts Program.
A display of intricate scissor-cutting art is on exhibit at the Galerie in the Cal Poly University Union. The exhibit, entitled "Silhouettes," contains delicate and detailed black and white designs by Marie Frey-Richter, who is one of a few contemporary scissor-cutting artists. Fairy tales, religious subjects, nature scenes, and Egyptian designs are among the themes Frey-Richter has chosen to present in "Silhouettes." Her pictures, which are illustrative scenes woven between flowers, leaves, insects, and other expressionistic designs, are cut from black paper and glued onto a white background.

The artist said she became interested in scissor art when she was a child in Berlin.

"I saw pictures in a book and I was so impressed that I tried to do them," she said.

During the war, Frey-Richter worked in a German town called Bad Nauheim, cutting out face profiles of soldiers. Later, she wrote fairy tales for her children and illustrated them with cutouts, watercolor, and ink wash drawings.

When she spoke of her fairy tales, Frey-Richter said, "They are gifts. I have the feeling I don't do the fairy tales..."

Castle Greeting Card Co. of Los Angeles published a line of her Nativities scene pictures for Christmas cards in 1957. Since that time, her work has gained an international reputation. Her pictures have been exhibited throughout Europe and published extensively.

Scissor-cutting art involves sketching a subject onto a piece of transparent paper, and then with the use of copy paper, the sketch is transferred to the reverse side of the black silhouette paper. When this is finished, the complicated cutting process begins.

"The whole picture is only of one piece," said Frey-Richter. "If she does use more than one piece of paper, she said she makes it evident in the picture."

The Galerie will be open for the exhibit Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on weekends noon to 5 p.m. "Silhouettes" is presented by the Fine Arts Committee of Cal Poly's Associated Students, Inc.

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**Record review**

Intimacy, simplicity 
redeem Lennon's last

BY JIM MAYER

If a double fantasy is anything like a double vision, it should be avoided like a hangover.

The first Lennon release since 1975, Double Fantasy is a compromise between Ono's contributions and the remaining partner subtly interrupting the other music in the background. Yoko sings to John; John sings to Yoko; they take turns singing to their 4-year-old son, Sean. The first Lennon release since 1975, Double Fantasy is a success on the charts. The LP reached the gold status and her house-husband-each performing seven songs with the remaining partner substuting the other music in the background. Lennon's contributions to the album are enjoyable by most standards of pop music, but not up to par for a man eulogized as one of rock 'n' roll's greatest influences.

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The album, recorded on the newly formed Geffen label for Warner Bros. Records, is a compromise between Ono and her house-husband—each performing seven songs with the remaining partner subtly interrupting the other music in the background. Yoko sings to John; John sings to Yoko; they take turns singing to their 4-year-old son, Sean. The first Lennon release since 1975, Double Fantasy is a success on the charts. The LP reached the gold status and her house-husband—each performing seven songs with the remaining partner substuting the other music in the background. Lennon's contributions to the album are enjoyable by most standards of pop music, but not up to par for a man eulogized as one of rock 'n' roll's greatest influences.

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Costello: Poly’s new wave treat

BY RALPH THOMAS
Staff writer.

Elvis Costello—often called the “king of new wave”—will be here, of all places, Sunday night. But why?

According to Matt Cryer, ASI Concert Committee chairman, Costello was booked “with a little bit of luck and a lot of persistence.”

The fact that Cal Poly is Costello’s only college stop on his U.S. English Tour has sparked many curiosities. Cryer, who booked the new wave Brit on December 24, explained, “We just got in at the right time.”

Costello and his band, The Attractions, are making a West Coast swing, including a stop Saturday night at the LA Sports Arena. This week he is making two appearances at the Warfield Theatre in San Francisco. But Cal Poly is not a typical stop for this non-mainstream performer. And Costello, as you all know, is far from typical for an ASI concert.

Although Cryer said the concert committee is anticipating a good show, he did express some concern about Costello’s concert reputation. He was referring to reports of inconsistencies—such as shortcomings—in Costello’s performances.

“We are always concerned about the quality of show,” said Cryer, “We are trying not to be worried about Costello, but I am.”

Nobody really knows what to expect. Costello has reached stardom in the rock scene since he burst onto the American charts in 1977 with hit single “Alison” of the album “My Aim is True.” He has since released four albums on the Columbia label.

His music is cynical, political, shocking and the list goes on. Cryer, who booked the new wave performer, referred to reports of inconsistencies in Costello’s performance. He doesn’t wind three-minute songs into 20-minute marathons and he’s especially noted for long performances. No, he’s not the average type of concert performer—which seems to be his goal.

He comes on stage and puts out one song after another, without much talk in between. But he does have a way of working crowds into frenzies. His performances are fast and hyper. Costello does very little the conventional way.

A fan of country music himself, Costello appeared at the Palomino in LA while on his Armed Forces tour. New wavers aren’t the most common type performing at the club, which usually headlines names like Hoyt Axon.

As far as his performance here Sunday day is concerned, Cal Poly concert goers are getting a bargain. Tickets selling on campus for $6.50 are a great deal compared to the $10.50 people are paying in LA to see him in a place much larger than the Cal Poly gym.

Cryer said he expected 3,000 tickets to be sold by Thursday. The gym holds 2,600.

Quintessence to present quartet

The third concert in the Quintessence Fine Arts series, scheduled for Jan. 16 at 8 p.m., will feature the Armando String Quartet.

The quartet is made up of four violinists who join forces every once in a while to play in concerts as a quartet. Included are First Violinist Barry Schober, Second Violinist Steven Schaefer, violist Kevin Tischer, and cellist Roger Lebow. Tischer and Lebow are also regulars at the annual Cal Poly Mozart Festival.

The concert is open to the public, and will be in the Cal Poly Theatre. Tickets are available from the U.S. box office at $5 for the public and $4 for student and ASI members. Tickets are also held at the door for $6.

I'm not sure what to expect when Costello comes on stage Sunday night. I hope it’s not too much like his previous performances. But I’m sure I’ll enjoy myself, as I always do when I hear Elvis Costello’s music.
Sports

Basketball team faces league opener on road

A deceiving pre-season record could be an ace in the hole for the Mustangs, who will host Cal Poly women's basketball team. The Mustangs have an 18-12 series edge over Cal Poly Pomona. The Mustangs won both meetings last season 65-57 and 62-61.

Hosts Riverside, Pomona
Poly begins cage title defense

The Cal Poly men's basketball team will have to play by a jekyll-and-hyde formula this weekend as it opens the defense of its California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) conference championship.

The Mustangs will now be an underdog on the basketball spectrum, headlining Friday and Saturday night in Riverside. Cal Poly Pomona will be the main Gym. Starting times both nights are scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Mustangs, under coach Ernie Wheeler, have been gearing for this weekend as the first step to regaining the conference title. The Mustangs will have their hands full as they play the tortoise on Friday night and the hare Saturday.

"We have been working all year for the conference season," Wheeler said. "Our only goal has been to win the conference again and get back into the regionals."

The important thing that Wheeler stressed was that the Mustangs have to win all of their home games to have a good shot at the league title. Last year the Mustangs won five of their six conference home games with the only loss to River­side. Cal Poly lost to River­side three times last year including the West Regional championship.

Riverside comes into the game with a 7-5 mark under second year coach John Masi. Riverside, ac­cording to Wheeler, is very much a slow down the tempo of the game and keep defensive pressure on the ball all the time.

Forward Howard Holt (6-5, 190) leads Riverside in scoring with 12.3 points a game. The 5-10 speedster from Tustin picked up nine conference points for assists last year for the Mustangs. Pomona is the other hand, has everyone back this year.

Pomona is the conference darkhorse as it posted the most assists in the West Region last season.

Wheeler feels his team has the talent to shake up the CCAA but isn't sure the Mustangs have confidence to do so.

"The team's confidence is the biggest concern that we have worked too hard on and we are strong. If not, we will be hurting," McNeil said.

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Between the lines

Anyone who has picked up a student loan check, gone into the bookstore, tried to pick up grades in the last few days, or tried to find a parking space after 9 a.m. has noticed the problem.

The problem, is, of course, that there are a heck of a lot of other people on this campus.

Close to 16,000 people are now attending Cal Poly, even though this figure was supposed to be held around 15,000.

Overcrowded classrooms, long lines and a parking shortage are the evidence of this overpopulation.

Cal Poly is caught in a bind that is unique among state universities—it’s popular. It offers good, cheap education and a nice place to live. This, then, is why Cal Poly admissions office received 8,000 applications last year, and why at least half the applicants were turned away.

This is also why you waited an hour-and-a-half in the line at the bookstore.

Even those who have been at Poly the last two years can see the changes. For most things now, one must wait. It is frustrating and more than a little confusing.

However, the other side of the coin must also be considered. Cal Poly is the economic backbone of San Luis Obispo and its environs, and businessmen like having more students in town. They may complain about noisy student revelers, but there are no longer any movements afoot, as there were a few years ago, to get Poly to reduce its admissions.

Times are tougher now, and people in town know that. They know they need student monies to keep afloat.

Also, the Chancellor’s Office and the taxpayers of California like to see a school operating at full capacity, with its facilities being utilized to their fullest.

But the real question is this: at what point does the quality of our education start to suffer because there are too many of us?

Obviously, things cannot continue under the status quo. If admissions continue to rise in spite of the administration’s efforts to curtail them, all the students here will receive less individualized attention. Short-term solutions could be applied in a temporary, band-aid sort of way. These include restructuring of facilities to allow for quicker movement of lines, or as far as the El Corral is concerned, opening it before classes start so students who arrive in town early can take advantage of this.

Campus facilities could be enlarged, but might it not be simpler for the Chancellor’s Office to take a look at the possible restructuring of the state university system? Since Cal Poly’s type of technically oriented education is so in demand, why not have other state universities copy “learn by doing” methods for their students? This would increase the other universities’ enrollments, which many of them need badly.

This could prove to be less expensive, and take less time, than giving Poly some new buildings, upping enrollment, and possibly changing the whole character of the San Luis Obispo area through a massive student population.

The lines will probably never be gone forever, but it’s time to start trying to shorten them.

The dream is eternal

Tribute to John Lennon

BY TOM KIN SOLVING

It has now been nearly a month since the world was devastated by the tragic death of the man known as the soul of the Beatles, John Lennon.

For the first time in radio history, stations throughout the nation held a ten minute silent broadcast to honor a musician. A couple of distraught fans committed suicide over the senseless killing of their rock hero.

San Francisco music critic Joel Selvin probably best articulated the feeling so many of us have had since the loss of the Beatles leader.

“Never met the man myself,” he said, “but nobody in my generation could escape the feeling he knew John Lennon personally. His songs touched our lives deeply, his punkish personality is etched in our brains, and we will remember him the rest of our lives.”

I recall the first time I was introduced to John, Paul, George and Ringo, in 1965. My older sister brought home a record called “Meet the Beatles.” We soon joined the ranks of millions of other befuddled Beatlemaniacs.

My eight-year-old buddies began coming over, croquet mallet-to-guitar in hand, to help us play along with the wild foursome from Liverpool. It wasn’t until years later that I discovered there was actually other music besides the Beatles. Yet I held onto my devout passion for the godfathers of rock ‘n’ roll.

Almost two decades have passed since John and the Beatles started shaking up the world with their songs about romance and, later, social revolution. Over the years, the dreams of the Beatles, and perhaps the rock world in general, were dashed, crushed, and became the fodder of rock stories. And then, in 1980, John Lennon was killed.

Some, of course, were incensed. Others said it was just another rock ‘n’ roll death. I agree with the latter.

The dream is eternal. John’s dream for peace and love, and his commitment to those causes, are the evidence of this.

Perhaps that’s why the death of John, the prophet of the group, is so terribly hard to take. And the mourning still continues. A hand-written sign in a Telegraph Avenue store window in Berkeley reads: “In memory of John Lennon: one of the greatest human beings the world has ever known.” Below this inscription were the words of two Lennon songs.

Last Friday night, millions sat home to watch the television network showing of “The Birth of the Beatles,” a poignant 1979 dramatization tracing their legendary ascent to fame.

Everyone I hear a Beatles song, I cannot help getting choked up with emotion, feeling as if I’ve lost an older brother. Many keep saying “the dream is over.” But I think this is needless pessimism. Sure, the group which disbanded in 1970 will now never be able to have the hoped-for reunion. The dream, however, is not, nor will ever be, over, because it did come true for us— that dream was the Beatles. John certainly wouldn’t have wanted us to wallow in misery over an apparent shattered dream.

Author Tom Kinsolving is a senior journalism major and Mustang Daily advertising representative.