Poly students may see a $15 increase in ASI fees

By Ralph Thomas
Staff Writer
Cal Poly students may see an increase in their ASI fees next fall, according to ASI President Willie Huff. Huff, who appeared on KCPR’s “Open Channel” last Thursday, said there is a great need for such an increase. He said there are two proposals developing in the ASI to increase the fee which now stands at $30. The proposal Huff favors was put together by his President’s Executive Cabinet. It calls for a $5 hike next fall quarter and an additional $2 increase for the next five years.

The other proposal, at the student senate’s administrative committee, will call for smaller increases, according to Huff.

Huff said the cabinet’s proposal would bring in an additional $81,000 annually. This, Huff said, doesn’t come close to covering the $260,000 worth of projects each year that can’t be funded by the ASI.

He said he is expecting opposition on the fee increase to come mainly from the Campus Libertarians who are unhappy with the way the current fees are being spent.

“IT will take a selling job on it,” said Huff after his KCPR appearance.

Other issues discussed on the program hosted by Susan Mee included CAR registration, high officer turnover in the ASI and various student problems.

VP backs student evaluation funding

By Robin Lewis
Staff Writer
ASI Vice-President Nick Forrestiere has stated he will support a request by the Political Action Club for funds to be used to print its student evaluations.

The evaluation questionnaires were distributed by clubmembers to six political science classes at the end of each quarter. “They’re now locked up in the political science department office,” said Shari Mullen, PAC president. Mullen said the club will tabulate the results and pick out representative student comments, then approach ASI for money for printing. She did not know how much money the club would ask for.

Forrestiere said the PAC will probably receive the funds from the ASI’s Special and Innovative Projects Fund which, he said, is set up to “only fund a project one time.” He said the newly formed Student Relations Board will begin work on student evaluations later this year and will hopefully pick up future costs. It is not known if the board, still in the formation stage, will fund individual departments and club efforts or compile the evaluations itself. But Forrestiere said he felt the evaluations “have to be done at the grassroots level.” He said the clubs know professors better and should be supported financially by ASI.

Forrestiere also encouraged clubs from other departments to undertake an evaluation of their own instructors. “They’re meant to improve the classroom,” he said. “I can tell the professor how he comes across to me, and any problems he might have.”

The six classes were chosen because they were offered only in fall quarter and would provide a good pilot run for evaluations of the entire political science department, said Mullen. The survey asked nine questions concerning instructor and class effectiveness and if the student would recommend the class to others. Mullen said suggested questions will be looked at and the survey form revised before the department is evaluated at the end of either winter or spring quarter.

John Syer, political science professor, PAC faculty adviser, and one of the instructors evaluated, said “lack of a sup-porting bureaucracy” such as secretarises and file cabinets, will make a department-wide evaluation “a hell of a lot more difficult than first expected.” The evaluations are being held under “joint custodial” care in the department’s office because of the lack of club file cabinets.

Dorm proposal is dead for now

Director denies crisis

By Steve Willard
Staff Writer
Additional dorm space for Cal Poly students will probably not be a high priority consideration of the university in the near future, the Cal Poly housing director said.

According to Bob Bostrom the administration has yet to give serious review to a fall 1980 proposal for 600 or so new dorm spaces, but added he sees no need to push the issue because the project’s substantial costs would have to be passed on to students. Bostrom said he does not think there is a housing crisis of critical proportions in San Luis Obispo.

New on-campus housing, said Bostrom, would provide more beds, but at a tremendous cost. According to a 30-year-old California State University and Colleges Board of Trustees ruling, no tax dollars may be used to finance housing, dining, or university union facilities. Funding for the project, which would cost millions of dollars, would have to be borne by Cal Poly Students.

“I’m concerned it might require a $100 registration fee increase per student to finance the project,” said Bostrom. “In addition, if this project will jack up rent on campus I’m not cer-tain it is in the best interest of student needs.”

A Department of Housing and Urban Development interest subsidy loan is the only monetary assistance available for the project. This aid would lower the interest costs of loans taken out for the project. Part of Bostrom’s strategy in 1980, presenting the proposal was to “get in line,” for these funds should the need for more dorm space become acute.

Please see page 2
Bills anger PG&E customers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — While some East Coast residents and Midwesterners wondered whether they had enough home heating oil to survive a winter of sub-zero temperatures, angry Californians were protesting average utility bills of $85.

Ron Rutkowski, a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. spokesman, said that during the week of Jan. 9, more than 9,000 disgruntled customers called utility offices from Bakersfield to the Oregon border to ask about the dramatic increase in their bills.

"That may be the highest number for any week in the utility's 75-year history," said Rutkowski, noting that about 4,500 customers made the same inquiry during the same week in 1979.

Most of PG&E's 3.5 million customers purchase both gas and electricity from the utility. Their combined bills averaged $55.15 for December 1980, compared with $42 in December 1979.

"We have people who come from other states call, and they actually have indicated to us that energy is a barrier here. It's the people who have lived here for the past five years and have seen their bills rise dramatically, those are the ones who are shocked," he said.

New dorms plan's low on priority list

New hope for dwarfed children

Haig denies illegal involvement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alexander M. Haig called the Watergate scandal "illegal and stupid" Tuesday, and denied he was involved in any way as a trusted aide to President Richard M. Nixon.

Haig, who is President-elect Ronald Reagan's nominee to be secretary of state, portrayed himself instead as a White House chief of staff who fought to keep Nixon from becoming enmeshed in criminal acts in the final months of his presidency.

On the fourth day of his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the retired four-star general and former NATO commander exploded in anger under persistent questioning from Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, D-Md., who sought Haig's "value judgements" about the right and wrongs of Watergate.

"I never went along with or supported anything I believed to be illegal," said Haig, who testified under oath at his own request.

"I have not ever indulged in something that is wrong or illegal... Others did. That's clear. The record is clear; We saw the volumes of it... Do you expect me to endorse what was done? No way..."

Haig acknowledged that "mistakes were made," but said he wasn't at the White House when the break-in at the Democratic National Committee took place in June 1972 or when senior White House officials tried to cover up evidence.

"Mistakes were made," he said. "No one is discounting the fact that they were made. I didn't make them. I wasn't there when they were made. I happened to inherit the situation and the consequences of those mistakes."

Page 2

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New system installed
Police to communicate better

BY MARIA CASAS
Staff Writer

Problems with old and outdated equipment, along with the need to provide better service to the campus community, necessitated the installment of a new communications system by the Cal Poly Department of Public Safety.

The old system, which had separate police and fire radios and telephones on the wall out of the dispatcher's reach, is now being consolidated into one console.

"Before it was just pieces of equipment," said Patty Cash, a dispatcher for the Department of Public Safety.

"Now the system is more efficient, making it more functional for the operator." The system has 12 telephone lines, including direct lines to President Warren Baker and medical facilities. It is also possible for a patrolling officer to be directly connected with people reporting a crime, so the officer can receive vital information, such as description and whereabouts of an intruder, on the way to the scene.

Police cars are also able to communicate with each other through the 911 hookup, thus eliminating the dispatcher as an intermediary. A quick response by a police officer is vital for someone needing help. The Status Board, which consists of a campus map, gives a police officer's location by lighting up the area he is in. The dispatcher then can quickly see which police officer is nearest the scene for help.

"It's a nice feature to have," said Cash.

The CRT Klutz Computer is capable of generating driver's license numbers, criminal histories, vehicle registration numbers, stolen property reports, missing person reports and warrants. Recording up to an hour's worth of calls is an advantage of the Dictaphone Call Check. "It is especially helpful when a call is disconnected or with hysterical people," said Cash.

The Dictaphone Call Check records all calls and the dispatcher has only to replay the tape when a problem arises. In the case of a disconnected line, the dispatcher listens for any noise, that could reveal the whereabouts of the person calling. At times a misunderstanding may arise with the address of a medical emergency, but the problem can be quickly corrected by listening to the tape.

Fire frequencies now total four in the new communications system: Cal Poly, California Department of Forestry, county fire, and White frequencies. The White frequency is a mutual aid channel and is used for major emergencies.

A foot pedal has been installed to control the telephone functions. This enables the dispatchers to keep their hands free to write addresses.

"Overall the new system is more efficient and organized," said Cash.

The new communication system enables the Department of Public Safety to take care of the job at hand without having to worry about which piece of equipment to go to.

Civil engineering dept. head appointed

A specialist in soil mechanics from Tulane University has been appointed as head of the Civil Engineering Department at Poly, by President Warren Baker.

Dr. Peter Y. Lee started work at the beginning of the winter quarter. Lee will succeed Stuart Larsen, who has been acting head of the Civil Engineering Department for the past 15 months.

Lee, 41, is a graduate of National Taiwan University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He received his master's and doctor's degrees, also in civil engineering, at Tulane University.

Lee will teach courses in soil and fluid mechanics, computer programming, strength of materials and hydraulics. He will also be a representative on the university's senate, a member of the Committee on University Budget Review and faculty advisor to the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

As head of the Civil Engineering Department, Lee will direct a faculty of eight members.

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SAN LUIS OBISPO
"I thought I wouldn't need a health card either!"

"Most of the people who come in aren't high income. I mean, people with good jobs come in, but they aren't usually regular." 

He mentioned the differences between video fans and those who play only pinball.

"The video players are logical. They mentally decide how to beat the machine. The pinball players don't see the world as so cut-and-dry. They're more risky—the risk takers. You can usually tell the difference by talking to them. Whereas an engineering major would probably prefer video games, a P.E. major would probably like pinball better."

Brixley said the type of people the games attract is changing. More girls play now, he asserted, and an over-thirty group is appearing.

"They're competitive," Vatcher asserted. "They want to beat their best score—that's what usually makes them play so long."

Several games area "regulars" were interviewed over a week's span, and all declined to be identified. This perhaps is a confirmation of the shyness Vatcher claimed regulars have. When asked why they spent so much time and money playing, a group crowded around "Space Invaders" responded:

"It's not a lot of money. I can spend 25 cents and play two or three hours.

"What's money if you can't spend it, anyway?"

"It's fun... I like the competition... enjoyable."

Cliff Brixley, an employee at the Family Fun Fair next to Campus Donuts, gave some of his observations of the "regulars."

"I doubt if I spent a lot of money," he said. "But not anymore. I like to see how good I can get. Beating my highest score or someone else's gives me a good feeling."

"As long as I spent a lot of money," he said, "but not anymore. I like to see how good I can get. Beating my highest score or someone else's gives me a good feeling."

The top-ten scorers on each machine change every day, Tony said. "It's not my nan on any of the games right now," he said. "But I just got here."

In a moment he turned, inserted a quarter into the machine, and was lost in space, in another game of asteroids.

Agribusiness expert to talk in Poly theatre

Walter Minger, senior vice president and head of Bank of America's worldwide agribusiness activities will discuss major agricultural issues Thursday, Jan. 15, in an appearance sponsored by the student council of Cal Poly's School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Minger will speak at 11 a.m. in the Cal Poly Little Theatre. There is no admission charge and the public is invited. Following his presentation, Minger will be the guest at a luncheon hosted by President Baker.

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When the pressures of schoolwork come crashing down on students' heads, many flock to the Family Fun Fair or the games area in the University Union to forget about their troubles by spending a few hours blasting space debris in "Asteroids" video game or try to break the day's top score on the "Space Invaders" pinball machine.

Marc Almgren (below right) braces himself to start the struggle of man against machine. Another Cal Poly student, Rick Charvet, readies himself to receive a smash in air hockey.
Students, faculty surveyed

Should King's birthday be a national holiday?

Establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been heralded as a positive move toward greater human understanding and unity by many Cal Poly faculty members and students.

King's birthday on January 15 prompts recurring discussion of a holiday to commoditize the civil rights leader who preached nonviolence and won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.

Several Cal Poly students and staff members favor the idea not only because of King's accomplishments in the battle for civil rights but also because of his worldwide recognition as a national hero.

Dania Redd, student researchers' secretary, said that because of his policies on peace and his appeal to people of all races, King should be recognized as a national hero.

Dr. David George, associate political science professor, said King should be honored because he was one of the few men who spoke of the American conscience. "He was concerned about injustice and was prepared to act on it," George said.

ASI President Willie Huff agreed. Dr. King should be recognized as a national hero, but believed that the anniversary of his birth should be a national celebration, not another vacation day that goes by unrecognized.

Huff noted that too many holidays are viewed as little more than days away from work and that King's birthday should be a day of learning about the man, his views, and their relevance today.

Dr. David Sanchez, associate professor of education, noted that the holiday would help everyone remember a human being who gave his life to promote justice and freedom for all people.

George agreed that the holiday would remind everyone of King's concern with injustice and added that the day could remind all Americans that there is a compassionate side to each person in spite of all the violence and hatred displayed in the course of everyday existence.

Pace said that "you can't change racism, but you can change attitudes," and that King's holiday would be a step toward changing social attitudes toward blacks.

Huff agreed with this but cautioned that it takes time to change people's attitudes and that with the national observance people might take the time to find out more about King and the ideas he represented.

Huff also said that King needs to be recognized because he was a hero of mankind and was recognized worldwide in his attempts to help oppressed people, not just blacks.

Pace and Redd agreed that King's worldwide appeal deserves recognition because American society is multicultural and Americans must realize there are other races that need to be recognized.

Redd stressed that King's true commitment and dedication to his goals should be considered when naming him a national hero.

Huff and Redd agreed and added, "Ideally we should forget about race and concentrate on ideas." He stressed that celebrations on such a holiday should be concerned with the spread of his ideas and should avoid the commercialism of most other holidays.

Sanchez also disagrees with commercialization and suggested that parades and school or church programs would more appropriately commemorate King's ideas.

Pace, Redd and Brown favored speakers and marches to attract attention for King's ideas, while Huff favored a week of observance which would focus on educating the public about King's contributions.

Huff also said that the national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would bring King's dream of unity, justice and peace closer to reality.


He was honored as the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Dr. King was assassinated April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, and on March 10, 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to his murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Ray's bullet did not kill King's dream of unity, however, and most of those interviewed said that a national holiday honoring King will bring that dream closer to reality.

Symbols will help out bikers

Sean in San Luis Obispo, cyclists will no longer have to wait forever at intersections for the light to turn green. "I'll be able to trip the mechanism by pushing the button," he said.

SLO city engineers will be painting the pavement at most city intersections a bicycle symbol centered on a white line that runs parallel to traffic. The symbol will be directly over the stoplight sensing wire, so that someone on a bike or motorcycle can make the light turn green by waiting with the cycle's wheels on the traffic light's painted white line.

It was decided to go citywide with the markings after test symbols painted at Santa Rosa Street's intersections with Mill and Palm Streets proved to be successful.

The markings will be painted in left-turn lanes as well as the right-hand ones.

The bicycle markings located at intersections have been frustrating for cyclists in the past because they force them to stop and then wait for the light to turn green. If the cyclist is in the right lane, unless the cycle is in the right place, the new symbols will just show where this place is a little more clearly.

The new markings are especially meant to be used when there is no motor vehicle to trip the light.
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He became part of a new-product development project team his first day on the job. A UC Davis graduate in electrical engineering, he teamed up with Dan Gavin, another recent UC Davis electrical engineering grad; and Donna Lightfoot, UC Berkeley computer science grad. Cubic said, "Here's the problem. You find the solution. And they're doing it. After their START program, they'll be ready for bigger and more exciting assignments." No wonder ambitious trekkers can plan a loop covering both Valencia Peak and Islay Canyon. Coon Creek and Islay Canyon are only two of many trails available at Montana de Oro State Park, and more than 150 miles of coastline reveal the peak is expansive, with 40 miles of coastline revealed on clear days, according to Wieman. Looking north, the line of seven rocky volcanic domes running from Morro Bay to San Luis Obispo stretches toward the southeast. Once volcanoes reached much higher elevations, the "Seven Sisters" are the remains of molten rock, cooled and solidified in the volcanoes' "plumbing." Planning a trip for early morning or mid-afternoon will assure hikers of spotting several varieties of animal life which thrive at the park. Deer, rabbits, opossum, coyotes, raccoons, snakes and lizards all call the park home, along with dozens of bird species.

The Valencia Peak trail is only one of many trails available at Montana de Oro. Coon Creek and Islay Creek both have trails following them, and more ambitious trekkers can plan a loop covering both high and low ground within the park. Maps of the park are available at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, in Morro Bay State Park, for 10 cents. Directions: From Cal Poly on Jan. 21 & 22, 1981

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CUBIC IS INTERVIEWING AT CAL POLY ON JAN. 21 & 22, 1981

OUTDOORS
Montana de Oro: back in time minutes from Polyt

BY JIM MALONE
Outdoors Editor
Ed. note: This week starts a weekly series of columns featuring day-hiking trails within an hour's drive of Cal Poly.

One of the most popular and beautiful camping and day-hiking spots on the Central Coast is to be found at Montana de Oro State Park, located 12 miles southwest of the Cal Poly campus via Los Osos Valley road.

Though often filled to capacity with most of the half million yearly tourists during the summer, the winter months provide balmy, uncrowded days perfect for enjoying the beach, exploring inter-tidal zones, or trekking about ancient Chumash Indian campsites at this 7,000-plus acre park.

The park occupies the former Spooner family property, and was acquired by the state in 1962 for $4 million, said San Luis Obispo Coastal Area Chief Ranger Ken Huddleston. In the 1970's, a son of the originalsettlers used the property as a hay-growing base, the hay being shipped from the area by schooners to San Francisco.

Later, a dairy farm operated on the land, giving way finally to pea and bean farming which continued until the state's purchase of the tract in 1962.

Montana de Oro—so named for its brilliant colors and beauty, the park is the perfect spot for enjoying the balmy, uncrowded days of December and January, the ancient Chumash Indian people having utilized the land for food, shelter, and animal stamping grounds for thousands of years.

Spend the afternoon will assure a delightful experience. Here and there the tilted layers of Monterey Shale, the compressed marine deposits, have been exposed by wind and water erosion. The view from the top of the peak is expansive, with 40 miles of coastline revealed on clear days, according to Wieman. Looking north, the line of seven rocky volcanic domes running from Morro Bay to San Luis Obispo stretches toward the southeast. Once volcanoes reached much higher elevations, the "Seven Sisters" are the remains of molten rock, cooled and solidified in the volcanoes' "plumbing."

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The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.—Julius Caesar, Act I, Scene 2

The stars may or may not be blameless, but they are undoubtedly interesting and inspiring to gaze at, an activity now available to students and the general public alike at the Cal Poly observatory.

Located between the "D" and "E" wings of the Science Building, the observatory will be open Monday and Thursday nights during the winter quarter, according to physics instructor Dr. Keith Stowe, faculty advisor to the observatory.

"Whenever the skies are dark and clear," the facility will be in operation, Stowe said. A paid student operator will be on hand to maneuver the 12-inch reflecting telescope beginning at 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. or whenever, Stowe added.

This is probably the best equipment in the State college system," Stowe said. Special features in the winter sky include the Andromeda Galaxy, the Pleiades star cluster, the Orion Nebula, the North American Nebula, and the Moon. Stowe advised astrophiles to wear a sweater or jacket, as there is no heat at the Poly observatory.

Sierra Club film depicts fine art of 'spelunking'

The Santa Lucia chapter of the Sierra Club will present a film depicting the art of "spelunking", or cave exploring, at its regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Produced by San Luis Obispo County's new planning director Paul Crawford, himself an avid spelunker, the film will take viewers through several spectacular caves in Sequoia National Park. The showing will take place at the Wesley Room of the Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., in San Luis Obispo. The free showing will be open to the public.

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Title teams honored at Union rally

Five weeks late is better than never.

It has been almost five weeks since the Cal Poly football team won its first NCAA Division II National Championship but the excitement of that feat was still echoing in the University Union Plaza yesterday as students gathered for a formal celebration of the 21-13 win over Eastern Illinois.

The rally, organized by the Activities Planning Center, was to recognize the recent national championships in football, cross country and track which have brought Poly's overall NCAA national championships trophy total to 16, the highest total for any Division II member. U.C. Irvine had the previous highest total for any Division II member. U.C. Irvine had the previous highest total for any Division II member.

"We can work towards getting there again," said football coach Steve Miller. "The Cal Poly men's and women's swim teams take to the water Thursday against Division I power San Diego State. The meet is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Anchoring the men's team will be Greg Shields, a junior transfer from San Ramon, Shields, an All-American from Diablo Valley College, will be featured in the 200 backstroke.

First home meet scheduled Thursday

Poly men and women battle San Diego

San Diego State might be walking right into a lions den. Cal Poly men's swimming coach Mark Johnson feels that San Diego State might be taking Cal Poly too lightly. "It is possible that San Diego is looking past us to Santa Barbara," said Johnson. "I don't think they have any idea how strong we are."

Johnson will find out soon enough as his Mustangs host the Division I power Thursday in the outdoor pool at 3 p.m.

The Mustangs are led by co-captain, redshirted last season, junior Greg Shields with him in the relay and we will put Greg Shields with him in the 200."

"We want to push him early with two fresh people," he said. "We will match Wright on him in the relay and we will put Greg Shields with him in the 200."

"Shields, a junior transfer, was an All-American at Diablo Valley College last year."

There will be two other key races for the Mustangs. John Scott, a freshman from Santa Cruz, will have his hands full in the 1,000 free. Scott was a CIF finalist for Harbor High last year. Greg Wright, a senior from Santa Barbara, will have his hands full in the 500 free. Wright finished second in the 100 back with a 53.20 timing at last year's nationals. Scott will have his hands full in the 1,000 free. Scott was a CIF finalist for Harbor High last year.

The 500 free battle between San Diego's Dave Brecht and Andy Peters is another key, according to Johnson. "We want to push him in the relay and we will put Greg Shields with him in the 200."
Guy and Oakland Raiders ready for triumphant return

SAN DIEGO (AP) - If there's one thing Ray Guy is looking forward to, it's punting in the Louisiana Superdome.

He and the rest of the Oakland Raiders have some pretty fond memories waiting for them there.

The first time Guy was there, in 1977, he was punting for Notre Dame against Texas. Just for the heck of it, Guy, then the premier punter in the NFL and still one of the best decided to try and hit the instant-play, screen structure suspended from the ceiling.

It did. It brought the house down.

He said the rest of the Raiders returned there on Dec. 3, 1979, this time for a regular-season game. New Orleans was playing Dallas, and the talk got pretty loud when the Saints stormed out to a 36-14 lead midway in the third quarter.

The final score was Oakland 42, New Orleans 31. Good-bye, playoffs. Good-bye, Saints, too, as it turned out. They hit the skids and they still haven't stopped sliding.

On Jan. 25, Guy & Co. were making their triumphant return to Crescent City. No more exhibition this time. Nothing so pedestrian as a regular-season game.

This time it's for all the marbles - the Super Bowl - against Philadelphia thanks to the 34-27 triumph Sunday over San Diego in the American Conference championship game.

"I, of course, would just as soon not have to punt at all, much less aim for the rafters. But if he doesn't punt at all, much less aim for the rafters, we have a great offensive line and we'll be altogether different.

"If I didn't see a loop coming into the punt returners in the Superdome again, I'd be crazy," said Guy. "It's not just as doors and there are no elements to worry about. Of course, kicking in the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl are a lot different."}

Yet nothing seems to bother this long and lean 6-foot-3, 190-pound kicker. Against San Diego, in Sunday's game, he averaged a record 56 yards on four punts with one of them traveling 71 yards, another AFC title-game record.

"I wasn't nervous out there," he said. Usually my palms are wet but this time I was OK.

Just another day at the office.

For a lot of Raiders, the return to the Superdome is only incidental to a return match against the Eagles, the National Conference champs following a 20-7 beating of Dallas. Seven weeks ago, Oakland lost 10-7 to the Eagles. Two weeks later the Cowboys beat the Raiders 19-12.

"Philadelphia's record was 11-1 after they beat us," said John Matuszak, the Oakland defensive end.

"They had some tough breaks. The Eagles lost three of their last four regular-season games but they still must have recharged themselves, the way they handled Dallas."
Value of sharing

The ASI student senate ended months of bickering and indecision Wednesday night when it voted 15-11 to strike down a motion to amend the current General Revenue Sharing program. 

The proposal brought before the senate would have limited the Revenue Sharing program, which currently allows students to designate one dollar of their quarterly $20 ASI fee to any campus organization they choose, to the coded groups which ASI fund. Thus, instead of being able to award a dollar to whichever of the 320 by-law organizations they choose, voters could only direct their money to the 70 groups that receive ASI money.

We commend the ASI student senate for defeating this bill which could only work to the detriment of Poly students.

The original revenue sharing plan was implemented last year as a way to make people more aware of what organizations do exist on campus so that more students can become involved in university activities, to lure more people to the voting booths, and to permit a degree of self-determination. It was reasoned that if students held the final destiny to at least one of the $20 spent, then they would feel a part of the university's student government process and be more inclined to vote.

Backgrounds reasoning may be that the senate and administration is given a gauge to determine where student interests lie. Such information could be invaluable when making up the budget as money could be focused to the groups the students indicated are the most important.

Secondly, the general revenue results from an election can serve as a guide to the hundreds of student officers in Cal Poly clubs and committee groups. For instance, if the Films Committee is voted $20 and the Concert Committee only $.2, the chairman or president may take this as a warning that Cal Poly students aren't happy about how the Concert Committee is being run.

Lastly, the revenue sharing program allows all students on campus to have a voice—though admittedly a small one—in the actions of campus administrations.

Though the motion to modify the sharing plan was defeated last Wednesday, it is doubtful that the issue is dead. There are too many senators that believe money collected through the Revenue Sharing program should only be funneled to groups the ASI supports financially for the proposal not to surface again with slight remodeling.

The Mustang Daily editorial board supports the majority's vote on revenue sharing program and condemns any future attempts to limit the program's scope. The General Revenue Sharing program was designed to try to get students from all majors and interests to become involved both politically and socially with the university. 

Isn't that the ASI student senate's underlying purpose also?

Editor: Governor Brown stated in his budget address to the legislature that, "It is utterly essential to continue new investments in our economy so that renewed prosperity will allow us to meet future needs." In my opinion, the best type of investment that we can make is to maintain a strong public supported university system which will educate those students who will solve present problems and lead us to future prosperity.

Yet the governor's proposed new budget contained a 7% funding increase, in real terms at least a 10% cut, for the CSUC system.

In a recent letter to me, Assemblywoman Hallid summarized some of the problems faced by the CSUC system as follows:

I am aware of the problems inflation has caused and I share your concerns for hiring qualified instructors. Sadly, in many technical fields a graduating senior starts at a salary higher than his instructor. It makes it difficult to attract and keep qualified faculty when more lucrative positions are so readily available in private industry. The security, scheduling, and academic environment are not attractive enough in documents to many persons to overcome lower salaries. All of this is compounded in many cases by a salary disparity between institutions of higher education.

Alas, Assemblywoman Hallid was as unresponsive as Governor Brown has been in providing possible solutions to our dilemma.

I hope that those people who feel as I do—that a high quality public university system is fundamental to our present and future quality of life in this state—will make their views known to their legislators, other elected officials, and the public at large. Only if we can convince people that there really is a problem can we begin to look for solutions.

Jay L. Devore
Associate Professor
Cal Poly

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