Evidence shows birth pill suffers 'misconceptions'

BY MARY KIRWAN
Staff Writer

For years the birth control pill has been charged with crimes ranging from weight gain to cancer. But a retraction is being heard, as new evidence shows the pill may have been unjustly convicted.

Ever since the pill was developed 20 years ago, it has been accused of causing cancer. "The pill does not cause cancer," said Dr. Andrea Brauninger, the physician consultant of the Cal Poly Health Center's Family Planning Service. "The pill does not, explanation point!"

Much of the public's fear is based on studies which indicated estrogen causes cancer in experimental animals when used for long periods of time. However, of the 180 million women who have used the pill, there is no evidence connecting its use and cancer, research shows.

The risk of breast cancer, one of the major killers of women, does not increase with pill use. According to a major study reported in the British Medical Journal last year, pill users "experienced a risk of developing breast cancer that was 4 percent less than that run by non-users."

In fact, the pill may protect women against breast tumors, according to two major American studies reported in the American Journal of Epidemiology and the New England Journal of Medicine in 1978. It is true, however, that some of the earlier types of pills were linked to cancer. The sequential pill, which provided women with estrogen for 14 days, followed by both estrogen and progesterone combined, was withdrawn from the market in 1976 because of its link to circulatory problems. New studies confirmed that users of one brand, Oracen, were twice as likely to develop breast tumors.

Cancer is only one of the commonly held misconceptions about the pill, says Brauninger. Some of the most accepted fallacies include misconceptions about weight gain, future birth defects, vitamin deficiencies and long-term side effects, she said.

"A lot of women complain that they gain weight on the pill," Brauninger commented, "but there isn't any scientific evidence and there's no reason that we've found. The actual fatty change that women complain of is really because they eat more while on the pill."

For some women who use the pill, there is a tendency for them to retain water. But, Brauninger said, this usually goes away after a few months of pill use.

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Mustang Daily

Tuesday, January 27, 1981

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Volume 45, No. 50

BY THERESA LUKENAS and KARYN HOUSTON

Ex-ag secretary condemns 'excessive regulation'

Students who apply to Cal Poly are admitted solely on the basis of GPA, but several Cal Poly administrators are working on a new admission process which will look at other factors in the applicant's life to decide whether or not the student gets in.

The new selection process—under study by Linda Atwood, associate dean of academic planning and Admissions Officer Dave Snyder—will still consider GPA, but only in conjunction with the applicant's coursework preparation in high school, school and community activities, work experience, and history of overcoming adversities—such as a handicap or illness.

"The reason for changing admissions is that the student with a 3.8 GPA in basket weaving will be accepted while the person with a 3.2 GPA in college prep courses doesn't," said Atwood. She believes, along with Snyder, that it's necessary to look at all facets of an individual's preparedness to get a complete picture.

She explained that students who were extremely active in school and community activities, or those who worked during high school, tend to be the most successful in college.

Under the present admission system, regardless of the student's preparedness and outside activities, the student with a higher GPA will always get in.

"This can be a real problem, particularly with ethnic minority individuals, who are often expected to work at a very early age to support the family. But what about some poor kids who had to work, and therefore ended up with a lower GPA? We have to consider that too," Atwood said.

Under the new plan, all other factors will be weighed to decide a student's eligibility for entrance to Cal Poly. Atwood and Snyder haven't decided how much impact different qualifications—work after school, learning disabilities, outside high school activities—will have, but by Fall of 1982, the new criterion/selection process will likely begin.

"The student with a GPA of 3.2 in college prep will get into Cal Poly over the student with a 3.8 in basket weaving, and the reverse is true now," Snyder said.

Under the new selection process a set of weighting factors will be developed for each department. The Engineering School will begin with a pilot program in fall of 1981.

The results of the pilot program will be studied and then the entire new selection process will be presented to the Chancellor's Office for approval.

Cal Poly is operating in an area that has never been a concern of the California State University and colleges because, "we could always accommodate everyone and it was not necessary to set up stringent admissions requirements," according to Snyder.

Snyder said Cal Poly is the only one of the 19 CSUC campuses to face this unique admissions problem—because of its impacted programs—and therefore others outside San Luis Obispo are not so aware of the predicament.

"Over a year ago we proposed a multi-criteria system, but it took two or three times before anyone would listen," Snyder said.

The new criterion selection process is not a part of the Affirmative Action Program, but its basic purpose is "to broaden the base of students who are coming to Cal Poly," according to Snyder.

He added that in order to have an environment which is more culturally aware, positive encounters between members of different social and cultural backgrounds are needed.

BY TOM CONLON
Staff Writer

The virtues of conservative politics and the evils of excess government regulations were enthusiastically voiced by a former member of the Nixon-Ford cabinet Saturday at the closing ceremonies of the Agriculture Management Biennial Alumni Seminar.

More than 200 agriculture management alumni, faculty, and students were crowded into the faculty dining hall for a luncheon featuring former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz as guest speaker.

Butz served in the cabinet for five years, and gained considerable popularity among farmers for his efforts to reduce federal restrictions on them. He resigned under pressure from fellow Republicans in 1976—one month before Gerald Ford's loss to Jimmy Carter in the presidential election—after an inflammatory remark about the physiological and sexual needs of the black American male was attributed to him in the press.

Butz said he had asked Cal Poly President Warren Baker for advice on what he should talk about at the luncheon. He said Baker told him to "refrain from politics. It will be a bipartisan crowd—25 percent of them will be Democrats."

Butz then proceeded to ignore Baker's advice and talk about everything from Watergate to world hunger.

"No other group has a higher stake in politics than the agricultural community," he said. "There is no hope for fiscal sanity if people do not get interested in politics."

Please see page 2

Memorial services set for professor

Memorial services will be held at Reis Chapel today for Cal Poly history professor James L. Fitts, who died Saturday at Sierra Vista Hospital from a cardiac arrest.

Dr. Fitts, 56, had taught history at Cal Poly since 1967. Before coming to Poly, Fitts taught at California State University at Fullerton, Northridge, All Hallow's High School in Hollywood, and All Hallows High School in Bronx, New York.

Dr. Fitts, who was born in Spokane, Wash. May 24, 1925, served as an officer of the United Professors of California chapter at Cal Poly since his arrival in 1967, and was the state-wide secretary of the union in 1971-73. He was also the editor-publisher of "IPC Views," the Cal Poly chapter newsletter, since 1970.

Please see page 3

Ex-ag secretary Buddh, "excessive regulation" regulation at a seminar Saturday.
Bomb explodes at Iranian bank
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two different groups claimed responsibility Monday for a bomb that exploded at an Iranian bank, shattering windows in two large buildings and tearing a small hole in an outer wall of a Financial District skyscraper.

There were no injuries from the explosion at the Bank Mellat Iran office, building officials said. The blast shattered windows on both sides of Montgomery Street in the Financial District.

Anonymous callers, one saying he represented the militant Jewish Defense League and the other the American Resistance Committee, each claimed responsibility for the blast.

Just before noon, a man with a "foreign accent" called KCBS radio and KGO-TV broadcasting stations and the San Francisco Examiner saying the revenge committee was responsible. The man said the group was formed to take revenge against Iran for the treatment of the former hostages.

Buzt extols pesticides, offshore drilling

From page 1

"An erosion of confidence," in the American political process, Buzt states, has enveloped the public. He claims the decline originated with the Vietnam War and Watergate, and stresses "there is nothing dishonorable about politics."

It will take intelligent direction from the private sector to meet the great challenges ahead, he said, and if the bureaucrats persist with their regulations there will be no incentive for businesses to meet these challenges.

Expressing his view on environmental protections, Buzt said, "the public good is served by drilling another (oil) well in California." American's take home pay is used for food-the lowest estimated to populate the earth at the turn of the century, he said. "We must double food production in the next 30 years, the only way to do it is with brain power."

Buzt went on to include in his definition of brainpower the increased use of chemicals and pesticides, and more capital investment in the industry.

Buzt cited the statistic that only 17 percent of the agriculture industry is faced with the world's number one challenge--to feed the 6.5 billion people estimated to populate the earth at the turn of the century, he said. "We must double food production in the next 30 years, the only way to do it is with brain power."

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tightly, government ties can cut energy waste

Dr. William Wood at SCSA conference last week.

Communication ties between government policy makers and agriculturalists—and among agri-culturalists themselves—must be strengthened if energy waste problems in the agricultural field are ever to be resolved. So said Dr. William Wood, keynote speaker at the two-day convention of the Soil Conservation Society of America, hosted this year by Cal Poly from Jan. 21-23.

Wood addressed 150 people in Chumash auditorium Wednesday for the 23rd annual meeting of the California chapter of the SCSA on the subject of energy in agriculture.

Wood focused on six areas in agriculture and what could be done in these areas to save energy: production of fertilizers, movement of water, tillage, production movement and transportation of specialized commodities.

Wood said a Jeffersonian philosophy of agriculture is still intact today, and "agriculture is an important political issue in the United States."

However, he continued, policy makers in government often have no knowledge of what to do to cut energy use in agriculture. For example, it has been suggested that irrigation should take place in the winter when electrical energy is more available, said Wood. The audience roared with laughter at the remark.

"Our objective should be to help in that sort of comprehension," he added.

As a soil scientist, Wood said the scientific community needs to learn to talk to one another. "How can we address some of the serious problems in a society if we in the educational and research fields have not learned how to talk to one another?" he asked. He suggested this is a good reason to have a soil conference.

The university, Wood said, is often a barrier to this goal. Departments are a "barrier to multidisciplinary education rather than a help." Wood concluded by saying, "We need to develop a better understanding of and empathy for alternatives despite our intellectual arrogance."

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Our representative will be on the San Luis Obispo campus on January 27. Please see our sign-up schedule in the Career Planning and Placement Office.

GMD (Guidelines for Manager Development) PROGRAM is an accelerated manager development program which offers immediate opportunities to manage people and demonstrate leadership potential. To qualify you must have graduated in the top quarter of your class and have demonstrated substantial amount of leadership, either on campus, in your community or on a job.

Our representative will be on the San Luis Obispo campus on January 27. Please see our sign-up schedule in the Career Planning and Placement Office.

Dr. James L. Fitts, S.J., today at 7:30 p.m. at Our Chapel, located at Nipomo and Monterey streets in San Luis Obispo. Father Fitts will also celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection at the Old Mission on Wednes-

By Lisa Cheves

A well-known architect who first entered the field of architecture at the age of 12, is slated to be the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Society of American, hosted by Cal Poly from Jan. 21-23.

Bruce Goff is best known for his unusual designs of larger homes throughout the Southern, Midwestern, and Western areas of the country.

Goff is best known for his unusual designs of larger homes throughout the Southern, Midwestern, and Western areas of the country.
Poly students volunteer services to the community

BY LORI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Through a volunteer program, Cal Poly students are providing encouragement, understanding, friendship and support to those in the community who have an emotional need.

Student Community Services, a nine-year-old Cal Poly organization, involves students with local residents who are in need of something more than what they already have.

This is the second article in a two-part series on the Student Community Services program and its work.

Besides establishing student friendships from children from single-parent families, senior citizens and handicapped persons, SCS also provides a service to those in rehabilitative programs.

Pen Pals is a program that sets up a correspondence between a student and a member of the California Men's Colony. Michelle Pruitt, who is in charge of the project, said its purpose is to provide convicted men with a contact outside the prison.

Over the past two years, students have written to 60-70 men, who have requested pen pals.

Pruitt said the project now involves 20 writers, but 40 men still wait for pen pals.

"Students come in and read the letters I receive and choose an inmate they feel they might have some similarities with," Pruitt said.

The mail is received anonymously through the SCS office in the University Union, Rm. 102. No connection is made as to the identity of the student unless the student initiates it, said Pruitt.

"The men are in need of communication with someone in the community," she said.

"They (the convicts basically) just want to know how other people are living," said Pruitt, who writes to an inmate.

Many inmates are isolated from family and friends. The pen pal may be the only connection many inmates have with the world outside the prison wall.

"Over the course of this project, many of those convicts talk about being there. Through this student involvement, they are in prison and how they feel about being there." Pruitt said, "They do just a lot of pouring out."

Another SCS program is the Atascadero Interpersonal Developmental Skills program, which is a volunteer club affiliated with the sexual reorientation program at Atascadero State Hospital.

Volunteers met with sex offenders and helped them to develop confidence and a healthier attitude toward human relationships.

The primary purpose of AIDS is to help patients learn to interact appropriately on a social level with both men and women.

In the group meets twice each week, Wednesday night is the official AIDS meeting and Thursday is an interpersonal exercise class.

Through this student involvement, patients are able to realize that people are willing to support them and help them readjust to normal community life.

KRESKIN'S ESP
The Amazing Kreskin will speak in Chumash Auditorium at 8 p.m. Feb. 2. Student admission is $2 in advance, $3 at the door. General admission is $3 in advance, $4 at the door.

MECHA
A general meeting of MECHA will be at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 in Room E-7 of the Science Building.
Getting into the world of business and industry introduces you to an intriguing challenge. In many ways, it's like a game of chess. You examine the options. Weigh the alternatives. And search for the best possible moves to reach your goals. The more choices you have available, the greater your opportunities are to succeed in your game plan.

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Interviewing on campus

Monday, January 26, 1981
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. — Staff Dining Hall — EL & CSC Student Open House

Tuesday, January 27, 1981
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. — Staff Dining Hall — ET/EL/AC & R, ME & IT Student Open House

Wednesday, January 28, 1981
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — Placement Center — EL, ME, ET/EL, CSC, IT, ET/AC & R Interviews

Thursday, January 29, 1981
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — Placement Center — EL, ME, ET/EL, CSC, IT, ET/AC & R Interviews

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**TUESDAY MADNESS**
Nature's fury

Last week's first winter storm brought with it huge, destructive waves. Clockwise, from above, an immense wall of whitewater thunders down on the Morro Bay light tower. Another breaker explodes into the breakwater; an unknowing photographer is about to receive a drenching. The seas were so dangerous that even the seagulls were grounded.
Birth control pills are convicted unjustly

From page 1

Contrary to common belief, pill use does not increase risks of birth defects in post-pill users and women don't need to take the pill long before they plan to become pregnant. But the clinic supervisor says before a woman plans a pregnancy, she should stop the pill for two to three months to establish a regular menstruation cycle and to approximate the time of ovulation. In a Caucasian birth, unknown conception could mean a premature delivery. Also, pregnant women should not use the pill, as it has been linked with birth defects of the heart and limbs.

Stopping pill use after long-term use is another fallacy. "It is true," said Brauninger, "that pill users who smoke are about five times more prone to heart attack. In the age group of 40 to 44, the risk is about 1 in 1,700 for users who smoke, compared to about 1 in 7,000 for non-smoking users."

The risks of abnormal blood clotting, the most common serious side effect, increase with age in both users and non-users and some studies suggest the risk is present in all ages. About one in 2,000 women aged 20 to 44 who use the pill will be hospitalized annually because of abnormal clotting. Only one in 20,000 non-users of the same age group will be hospitalized annually.

Studies estimate that one user in 12,000 between the ages of 15 and 35 will die of a circulatory disorder each year. In non-users the rate is about one in 50,000 per year.

Pill users do experience a slightly increased risk of urinary infections and gall-bladder disease, according to research. Pill use also increases the risk of a very rare noncancerous liver tumor, which, if ruptured can be fatal. Since 1966 some reports indicate that some women who stopped using the pill failed to resume ovulation. Later studies determined that women of low body weight (resulting either naturally or from dieting) are prone to longer-lasting sterility after they stop the pill than those of average body weight.

Although cancers of the-sterility have decreased with the recent advent of lower-dose pills, some recommend that women of extreme low body weight should not use the pill. Brauninger said the pill is safe for young "normal" women but said there is no universal "best" means of birth control. It's an individual decision.
Poly splits with conference leaders

BY VERN AHRENDES
Sports Editor

The Cal Poly Mustang men’s basketball team was 60 minutes away from a perfect 6-0 conference record and a spot in the NCAA Division II Top 10, the fourth week of the Division II season. The Mustangs had everything to gain with a win over Dominguez Hills and nothing to lose. But, the Mustangs were not the same team. The Cal Poly Mustangs had just one California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) conference with identical 5-1 records. The Mustangs could have headed into the fourth week of the CCAA with an unchallenged 6-0 mark, could have been in the Top 10 of the NCAA Division II rankings, and could have been in a deadlock with Chapman and Dominguez Hills for the top spot in the conference. The Mustangs put themselves into the precarious position by losing to the previously No. 7-ranked Chapman, in the Division II standings, on Friday night, 76-60, and then losing to Dominguez Hills the following night, 60-52. The team that played for Poly those two nights was not the same team. Against Chapman, the Mustangs showed every indication of improving their No. 14-seeding in the nation’s polls by manhandling the Panthers. The tables turned the following night as Kevin Lucas was outmuscled, outplayed and outplayed Poly. The Mustangs have put themselves in a very awkward position and they have some work cut out for themselves beginning tomorrow night as they travel to Bakersfield in an effort to vent a little hostility and regain sole possession of the conference lead.

Granted, the Mustangs were hobbled Saturday night as Kevin Lucas was still recovering from last week's injury. Please see page 11.

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Lack of emotion enables Dominguez to handle Poly

From page 10

week's ankle injury and Jim Schulte was slowed by a painful hip pointer suffered Friday night, but Poly was emotionally flat. "We had everything in the world going for us," said Poly head coach Ernie Wheeler. "We had a good crowd behind us and we could have been 6-0 through the first half of the conference. We could have been in the Top 10 in the nation but now our work is cut out for us. The team was so flat that we couldn't even get them going in warm-ups."

In the Dominguez Hills game, Poly could not generate an inside game. The entire second half was dominated by San Francisco State's显性攻击. Poly's defense was not up to par, and the team was unable to establish a lead. The game ended with a final score of 77-67, favoring the visiting team.

Tickets available for benefit baseball game

Ticket locations have been announced for Cal Poly's exhibition baseball game at 11 a.m. at San Luis Obispo to benefit the American Cancer Society. The locations for the game are: University Union Ticket Office on the Cal Poly campus; San Luis Athletic Supply, 878 Higuera, San Luis Obispo; Reed's Men's Wear, 1029 Madonna Road Plaza, San Luis Obispo; La Rosar's Village Square, 897 Higuera, San Luis Obispo; Green Bros. Clothing, 955 Higuera, San Luis Obispo; and the Mer-ribbon, 1901 2nd, San Luis Obispo.

Prices are ticketed at $2 each. Among the baseball stars scheduled to appear at SLO Stadium in addition to Wohlford are: outfielders Jack Clark and Max Venable and infielders Darrell Evans and Guy Suler's of the Giants.

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Letters

Faculty integrity is being questioned

Editor:
Yes, we certainly do need more research, although you'll never forget that students and instructors alike are always involved in pure research. Sometimes it's even called a "Senior Project." My point is, that when you allege that "there is no alternative but research as a means of professional growth," then it could be construed that your instructor/professors have not, and are not professionally growing. In this case, surely that was not what you meant, or was it?

If you are interested in joining Outside Research, you are sure to 'spring' with the case, or have you found another program to "cut?" Have you a direct line to the Department of Education, and will they support your request? If so, I hope your first effort will be to secure professors to staff overcrowded and cancelled classes at our university. 

Charles S. Steaver

Freedom of speech is not selective

Editor:
I have just read Dennis Ice's letter in the Daily, January 29 Mustang Daily. After seeing Iranian anti-American propaganda, including a rally "going on full force" where "punch and cookies were being served," he feels that "any Iranian students with animosity towards the United States should be deported." There are a lot of people in America who share this view.

Mr. Ice, don't you realize that freedom of speech includes speech that we don't like hearing? If we allow freedom of speech only to those whose views don't upset us, that would be a funny kind of freedom.

I love America. I even hate Russia. I don't like seeing "anti-American propaganda posters," much less seeing or hearing anything that tells us what a great country the Ayatollah is in. The Ayatollah has managed to get enough blood on his hands to admirer in his declining years.

I don't like hearing the KKK and the Nazis present, whom America put and kept in power, with the case, or have you found another program to "cut?" Have you a direct line to the Department of Education, and will they support your request? If so, I hope your first effort will be to secure professors to staff overcrowded and cancelled classes at our university.

Besides, just how many Iranian students in the United States have personally committed "an act of war against the United States?" "Horrific occurrences" such as posters and rallies shouldn't constitute acts of war in America. At least Iranians who hate America have more of a right to do so than the KKK has to hate blacks. The lathe, whom America put and kept in power, admitted he would tolerate no criticism, and he demonstrated this in the jailing, torture, and death of many of his subjects. His secret police committed such atrocities as cutting the arms off 5 year old children. Freedom of speech means freedom of speech. If we let hate mongers like the KKK and the Nazis shout their mouths off, we should let the Iranians have their say.

Even if Mr. Ice, they serve punch and cookies at their rallies.

David Strom

Opinions count

Editor:
The Editor encourages readers' opinions, criticisms and comments on news stories and editorials.

Press releases must be submitted at least a week before they should be run.

Letters and press releases may be submitted to the Mustang Daily by bringing them to the Mustang Daily office in Room 226 of the Graphic Arts Building, or sending them to Editor, Mustang Daily, CRC 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407. Letters must include writers' signatures and telephone numbers.

The Editor reserves the right to edit letters for length and style, and to omit submissions.

Letters to the Editor must be typed, double spaced, and submitted before the deadlines. Letters kept as short as possible. Inordinately long letters will not be printed.

Student opinion polls of faculty are a good idea. Not only does a composite survey of instructors help students, but teachers too can profit from an unbiased, well-researched result which clearly points out what students think of their instructors.

Student opinions are the most conclusive criticism an instructor can receive because students are the chief recipients of a teacher's output. In the past, various student groups have gotten together and tried to come up with a reasonable way of gathering student evaluations and compiling the results in a publication. Unfortunately, these endeavors were usually halted by a lack of money coupled with a lack of student/teacher interest.

When students first arrive at Cal Poly, either as transfers or freshmen, they are often confused as to which teachers would be the best for a class. A public opinion poll could best help guide these students who have not yet profited from their friends' opinions.

The Political Science Club put in a request to the ASI senate for money to conduct an opinion poll of six political science instructors. In the hope that PAC's attempt at publicizing these results will spur other departments on campus to follow the trend, Mustang Daily editorial board would like to see PAC receive the funds.

It's important for students to discover what their future instructors will be like—after all, they'll be spending 10 weeks under his or her tutelage. By reading student comments and evaluating percentages of what was most liked/most hated in classes, instructors can tailor future lectures to meet the students' needs. A teacher who is thought to lecture too randomly may try in the future to structure his classes he'll be teaching for years to come.

With the aid of a computer, polls could be conducted efficiently and quickly. And, to cut costs of printing, by far the biggest expense, the ASI could publish one massive survey and display it in a prominent campus bulletin board, say in the Library or El Corral.

Student opinions may cost a lot to publish, but if the ASI, PAC and department heads were put together, they could figure out a way to cut expenses. And it's in everyone's best interest to work hard toward making student opinion polls a regular function, at least once a year, preferably once each quarter.

When the time comes, instructors could be advised to loosen their lecture a little, to allow for more student input.

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