New holistic English grading sparks controversy

BY KATHLEEN RILEY

As defined in Webster's Dictionary, "holistic" means of or pertaining to the whole. Some Cal Poly English teachers are now using holistic grading, especially in large freshman composition classes.

According to Dr. Gordon Curzon, holistic grading is an attempt to take into account the whole student. As applied to teaching English, the holistic viewpoint will place an emphasis on what the student is trying to say. Content will be more important than form.

Curzon, an opponent of the method, views it as a fad that cannot replace the rules of spelling, syntax and grammar.

On the other hand, Dr. Edward Cairns considers holistic grading reliable and the method of the future. There are two types of teaching, prescriptive and descriptive, said Curzon. Prescriptive places emphasis on grammar, rhetoric, and spelling, while descriptive relates to the rules coming out of a learning environment. While agreeing that rules can be changed, Curzon thinks that the basic rules of the English language are important. The rules may not be sound or seem logical, but they are essential, he said.

"Holistic grading causes mediocrity of students' output," said Curzon. It has some value but it simply neglects the merits of English, he added.

Curzon sees the move toward holistic grading by teachers as a result of the current frustration. The teachers cannot get the students to perform, so instead of imposing discipline they lower the standards, he said.

The best method of teaching is the one-to-one approach, but unfortunately it is not practical on a large scale, Curzon concluded.

In contrast, Cairns, in contrast, sees clarity of the main thesis as more important than form, content, order, spelling, and syntax.

Holistic grading is a carefully worked-out process that originated at Yale, Cairns said. It defines all the elements of writing that are important to the whole and sets up a grading criteria that is not as complex as the large scale, he added.

To work efficiently a question must be designed carefully. The question should lead the writer to produce writing of the desired type, usually expository prose, Cairns explained.

By putting grading processes, holistic grading is highly reliable, Cairns said.

It is difficult to use on an individual basis because there is not a chance to provide feedback, said Cairns.

"Holistic grading is not a fad," he said, "but a valuable and valid method of grading."

PG&E engineer and nuke critic debate

BY MIKE CARROLL

Staff Writer

Speaking against the activation of Diablo Canyon, nuclear industry critic Richard Hubbard turned to his debating opponent Thursday night and said, "John and I agree about one thing. Diablo is safe—just as long as we don't fuel it."

The debate between Hubbard, a former General Electric Co. official, and PG & E nuclear engineer John Sumner attracted an audience of about 700 at Chumash Auditorium.

Sumner, who assumed the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant was "perfectly safe" and that its benefits would make the plant a "good neighbor" for San Luis Obispo, the plant will operate," Sumner declared. "We have to put up with that."

Hubbard, one-time chairman of GE's nuclear instrumentation department, called Diablo "the most dangerously sited nuclear plant anywhere in the world." He said the $1.9 billion structure, located just three miles from the Hosgri earthquake fault, was designed according to 1960's criteria that do not meet current safety standards.

Hubbard and two other GE officials left the company after being concerned "over the impact of the U.S. nuclear reactor program on the security and future health of the nation."

The debate, presented by the ASI Speakers Forum in cooperation with the Political Action Club, was mediated by Cal Poly speech professor Raymond Zeuschner.

Sumner, a six-year PG & E employee, said there is "nothing special" about the radiation associated with nuclear plants because, like heat, it is simply a form of energy.

The PG & E official said there was no air or thermal pollution linked directly to nuclear power. The thermal effects of nuclear plants do not present any environmental or health dangers, he added.

On the subject of radiation problems, Sumner said that "health effects or dangers at this point in time are hypothetical and theoretical."

Hubbard, a six-year PG & E employee, said there is "nothing special" about the radiation associated with nuclear plants because, like heat, it is simply a form of energy. The PG & E official said there was no air or thermal pollution linked directly to nuclear power. The thermal effects of nuclear plants do not present any environmental or health dangers, he added.

On the subject of radiation problems, Sumner said that "health effects or dangers at this point in time are hypothetical and theoretical."

According to radiation produced by the Diablo plant could be released during normal operation of the plant and in an emergency, said in accord with Environmental Protection Agency standards; during transportation of fuel to and from the plant; during the handling of waste from the plant; or during the decommissioning process; during the accident that would constitute 500,000 times that released by Diablo Canyon.

Hubbard questioned the safety of Diablo mainly because of its proximity to the Hosgri earthquake fault. He said the assumptions made by PG & E about Diablo's ability to withstand a major earthquake had "no academic community."

"We don't really know how safe Diablo Canyon really is," Hubbard said.

The former GE employee said an earthquake could bring down power lines linked to the plant, forcing emergency systems into the automatically operated plant.

Citing the hazards of nuclear wastes and uranium mining, Hubbard told the audience, "You've been told a lot of platitudes about nuclear power—that it's clean, cheap and safe. He said these adjectives were questionable.

Hubbard said that during his 10 years in GE's nuclear sector, he had increasing problems and decreasing funds each year. He indicated he was pressured to lower the quality sampling standards on nuclear components, thus putting the nuclear industry's financial situation.

At the same time, Hubbard said, he was telling the public that nuclear plants were "perfectly safe."

Hubbard also conceded there was a 90-50 chance the plant from Diablo Canyon could be stored in

Supporters, opponents of fee increase thrash it out

BY MARY MEALISTER

Staff Writer

The proposed ASI fee increase was alternately deemed an unfair tax and a necessary inflation, Thursday by representatives of groups advocating and opposing the referendum.

Speaking on KCPR's Open Channel, representatives from both the ASI and the Stop Fee Increase Committee addressed issues surrounding the fee referendum set for April 8 and 9.

ASI Vice President Nick Foresteri and Program Board Chair Stephanie Nelson spoke for the ASI in support of the increase and emphasized the need for added revenues to offset runaway inflation.

"The inflation rate has gone up dramatically and eaten away at our program funds," Foresteri said.

The biggest problem has been fixed overhead costs, he added, as salaries and insurance rates have increased dramatically.

Foresteri also pointed out the range of programs offered by the ASI, such as activities, services, and the voice to the faculty and administration.

Besides directly related student activities such as the Learning Assistance Center and Hobby Garage, Foresteri noted, the ASI provides more indirect services such as insurance and duplication for all clubs.

Nelson added that the Program Board sponsors concerts, films, special events, and Speakers Forum. She stressed that it is "important to have an idea of where benefits are coming from."

Foresteri said the increase is needed to "bring ASI up to the buying power of 1976 and maintain it there."

1978 was the year that Cal Poly reached maximum enrollment and a fixed revenue, he said.

Speaking for the opposition, Steve Jansen of the Campus Libertarians and Clyde Steele of the Stop Fee Increase Committee called the fee proposal unjust.

"We ask all students to pay for benefits garnered by few," he explained.

He added that he resents the fact students are forced to pay the fee under threat of not being allowed to participate in activities, "forced to pay for benefits they are in effect supporting the wealthier students."

"Many organizations support themselves, such as the Soils Club and Poly Phase which tailor their activities to meet the needs of students and consumers," he explained.

"It is important that students gain knowledge of the ASI."

Steele said it is unfair for the ASI to ask others to pay for their activities.

"They ask all students to pay for benefits garnered by few," he explained.

He added that he resents the fact students are forced to pay the fee under threat of not being allowed to participate in activities, "forced to pay for benefits they are in effect supporting the wealthier students."

"Students who cannot participate pay for those who can," he said.

Jensen noted his campaign is not a destructive but a constructive one and stressed that voluntary donations are in effect supporting the wealthier students.

"Many organizations support themselves, such as the Soils Club and Poly Phase which tailor their activities to meet the needs of students and consumers," he explained.

"It is important that students gain knowledge of the ASI."

Please see page 5
Evolution teaching ban sought

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The lawyer for fundamen­
talists trying to limit the teaching of evolution in
California schools told a crowded courtroom Mon­day that the state's policy is "essentially hostile to
religion.'

The fundamentalists won an opening round when
the trial judge refused a state request to dismiss their suit, saying they had the right to try to prove their children's right to teach evolution.

The suit by a San Diego group called the Creation­
Science Research Center, on behalf of three children of its director, Kelly Segraves, challenges the state's guidelines for science textbooks, which refers only to evolution as the theory for the development of life forms.

Schools are free to buy other texts, but must pay for
more than the plaintiffs contend violate freedom of
religion, and seek equal treatment for the biblical ver­
sion of creation, which they say they can support with
scientific evidence. The Creation-Science center publishes textbooks based on that theory but the state has refused to approve them as basic science texts.

Labor union case to be decided

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said
Monday it will decide whether workers with access to
management's confidential files can join a labor union, a case which could affect secretaries and thousands of
other white-collar employees.

The justices said they will hear National Labor Rela­
tions Board arguments aimed at granting the right of
union membership to most such workers.

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Mayoral candidates speak their minds

Billig: Council unity needed to meet city’s needs

"I think it’s crucial for the students to have the city and the university working together," Billig said. "The construction of a "Greek row" and married student housing on campus would also help ease the shortage, Billig said. The councilwoman said she has also fought to prevent the re-zoning of vacant land near Cal Poly to allow office construction.

"That (re-zoning) has to stop," Billig said. "With so little high-density zoning left near Cal Poly, it’s criminal to re-zone it."

"Our job is to make the city a better place for all to live, not just a few people."

To solve the city’s traffic problems, Billig said she supports the construction of new innovative bicycle paths, an expanded bus system and increased car pooling. However, Billig admitted that cars will continue to abound in the city. For this reason, she supports the construction of a new parking facility downtown.

"Government should not be viewed as a necessary evil, Billig said, but as a way to improve the lives of all citizens, as long as its leaders have a positive attitude."

Floyd Hitchcock

"The voting public deserves a choice."

"I could not vote for the only other person running for office," said Hitchcock, not mentioning opponent, Melanie Billig, by name. The 15-year local resident believes the upcoming council races, the co-candidates feel the city and council that other candidates need to enjoy. As mayor, she would try to unify the council’s members to work together to meet the needs of the city. To do this, Billig said she would try to encourage harmony among the council members and provide a "strong, positive, dynamic leadership."

"Billig does not seem to disagree with me, but I think she has the experience necessary to lead a council," Billig said. "I’ve been a local politician for 15 years and I want to see things happen in this city."

As co-mayors, the two said they would try to unify the council’s members to work together to meet the needs of the city. To do this, Billig said she would try to encourage harmony among the council members and provide a "strong, positive, dynamic leadership."

"Billig does not seem to disagree with me, but I think she has the experience necessary to lead a council," Billig said. "I’ve been a local politician for 15 years and I want to see things happen in this city."
Cal Poly 190-pounder Wayne Christian (left) has earned a berth to the NCAA National wrestling meet as he finished second in the West Regionals. He will be joined by five other Mustangs in Princeton, N.J., in two weeks. Cal Poly has won the team title for the eighth straight year.

Poly wins swim meet

The Cal Poly men's swim team has cleared its last hurdle before the NCAA Division II national meet in Youngstown, Ohio, in February. It will meet the team has cleared its last hurdle before the NCAA Division II national meet in Youngstown, Ohio, in February. It will meet the Poly won the Pac-10 meet at San Diego.

UT
tegnology

The Poly has now qualified 12 individuals including divers Pat O'Meara and Clay Loomis for the Independent Conference meet at San Diego.

Keyes second

Cal Poly senior Maggie Keyes continued to improve her indoor mile timing as she finished second behind Jan Merrill in the women's mile at the Indoor National Championship in New York.

Keyes clocked a 4:30.47 in front of 15,991 fans at Madison Square Garden.

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— Glenna Deane Dovey

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HRT ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS
MARCH 5, 1981
Co candidates oppose Diablo, drilling

From page 3

Dahle Canyon, Patton said, include radiation exposure, earthquakes, inefficient evacuation procedures, human error and inadequate waste disposal.

In addition, Churchill and Patton said they are also strongly opposed to local off-shore oil drilling. Instead, they favor “less dangerous” forms of energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

The candidates also believe conservation of water and other resources should be encouraged more among local residents. Churchill said they would encourage installation of the water recycling systems in homes, as well as the development of “back to basics energy production methods.”

The candidates said future growth is not an important issue to them, but feel that strict guidelines on water and energy use will attract only a limited number of people to live in San Luis Obispo.

“...we believe there should be limited growth in the city,” Churchill said, “and it will be limited with the type of housing and energy conservation we’re advocating.

Churchill and Patton also oppose new developments on the city’s hillsides and support stringent regulations on the types of buildings that can be constructed within the city.

In addition to housing and environment, Churchill and Patton believe the city faces other important issues. As mayors, Patton said, they would try to “maintain a more homogeneous community and greater citizen participation in problem-solving.

“People should work together more,” Patton said. “We also want to see community action groups and task forces set up to see how to improve government efficiency and investigate some of the alleged malpractices at mental health facilities, hospitals and convalescent facilities.”

As co-mayors, Churchill and Patton would like to implement a hot lunch program for the city’s senior citizens.

“...one meal for at least one hot meal a day,” Patton said.

“We feel Cal Poly is this area’s richest natural resource,” Patton said.

“Wherever possible, the students should be involved in community action groups,” the candidates also feel students’ senior projects should be made applicable to civic improvement wherever possible.

Patton and Churchill believe student support will be vital to their ticket in today’s election, and urge all students to write in them.”

From page 4

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In The Creamery
San Luis Obispo
Poly gains regional bid

"If you had a map of the United States and you drew the longest line on it from San Luis Obispo to where we will be playing basketball this weekend," said Cal Poly assistant coach Tom Wood. "The Mustangs, 20-7 overall, have gained an advantage both in the NCAA Division II regional tournament—in an around way.

The Mustangs will be packing their bags for the east coast in preparation for Friday night's East Regional opener with BYU, on their way to the NCAA Division-II West Regional tourney in Long Branch, N.J.

BY VERN ARHENDES

Storybook season ends as Poly loses to Santa Barbara team

A storybook season has concluded with a 12-6 overall record and a win in the Central California Athletic Association mark, but the Mustangs, second in the Association mark, dropped out of the playoffs.

Finney only scored four second-half points, his last 13 points. A record-breaking streak shaves 12-16 second-half record and a 16-6 record in the Associated Press Top 25.

Poly's 7-6 record in the Associated Press Top 25 regionals.

The Mustangs' season ended with a 12-6 overall record and a win in the Associated Press Top 25 regionals.

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— GlennenaDeeve Dovy

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(213) 597-3361
By Tom Kinsolving

Soviet SS-19 and SS-20 “monster” missiles begin their ascent to the top of the Ukraine silos.

Within 30 seconds they are flying across the North Atlantic. Their destination: unalerted minutemen across the United States.

The biggest advantage, though, will be the security of our nation and the rest of the free world. That’s one profit that isn’t dispensible.

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

The West European nations are also in danger, in the event of a conventional strategic attack by the Warsaw Pact forces.

NATO’s tanks, troops and naval vessels are vastly outnumbered. The Soviets and their East European divisions could roll unchallenged within 48 hours on thorough to West Germany’s Rhine River.

This is because our nation has allowed its military machine, here and abroad, to deteriorate. The post-Vietnam traumatization has been the root of our dangerously weak position as the supposed leader of the free world.

The U.S. Army chief-of-staff estimates about $45 billion is needed to insure our forces a fighting chance in the breakout of war.

The specter of nuclear holocaust is a ghastly thought. The thought of spending billions more of our precious tax dollars on military armament is also an unpleasant idea.

Yet the alternative is even more horriying. Those such as the eminent Paul War­nke advocate doing little or nothing, and in the meantime, appease the Soviet Union.

In 1958, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain called this philosophy “peace in our time.”

It’s been shown with tragic results what happens when a ruthless totalitarian regime perceives weakness. Poland, and the Nazis in 1939, and Afghanistan and the Soviets in 1979, are examples.

Peace through strength may be acknowledged by many as a profit-making plot by the military-industrial complex. No doubt there are immense profits from manufacturing MX missiles.

The biggest advantage, though, will be the security of our nation and the rest of the free world. That’s one profit that isn’t dispensible.

The fact that Cal Poly student population very closely resembles the California ethnic make up and very nearly for the rest of the United States as well. It would seem that proportionately the Cal Poly student populace does reflect the ethnic make up of the California population, and that minorities are being represented adequately on campus.

I agree that better standards for acceptance into the University should be developed, but giving special consideration to any group—white, black or hispanic—could not be tolerated. As a matter of fact, the system should be applauded for its ability to maintain a proportionally equal student population that does reflect the population of the California society.

Mark James Newland

Lack of vocal support

Editor:

I would like to voice my disappoint­ment with our so-called “cheerleaders.”

These girls are supposed to rally our fans behind our teams. My case in point is the lack of support they show for our front-running men’s basketball team.

Two Fridays ago, Cal Poly played Cal State LA in a crucial league match. However, the only cheers heard were from the LA cheerleaders, who had their entire squad present. The irony lies in the fact that Cal State LA is in SECON(D) TO LAST place.

It was embarrassing to see Mustang fans trying to cheer on the team trying to compete against the yells of the LA yells.

I would like to recommend that these cheerleaders go out and lead the basket­ball team on to a league crown, or give their uniforms to someone else who is willing to do the job.

Rick Sample

Letters

Poly reflects state ethnic population

Editor:

Referring to the editorial “Ethnic Barrier” dated Feb. 27.

Since it is the consensus of the Mustang Daily editorial board that “a greater effort to recruit black, Asian, Hispanic and other minority students is needed” I’ve then reviewed a few basic facts.

In the forementioned article the author states that 88 percent of the student population is white while 12 percent is non-white minority students.

The article goes on to state that “these groups [minorities] are vastly under­represented in the so-called economic sector and the fields that Cal Poly prepares many of us for: engineering, architecture, graphic communications, and business and agriculture, to name a few.” It goes on to say that “even in the non-technical majors at Poly, there is an underrepresentation of minorities.”

Last but not least, the author makes a point of saying that a University must reflect the ethnic make up of the society as a function as a tool to teach not only technical but social skills as well.

It is obvious that part of the function of the CSUC system is to provide educ­ation to all sectors of the population and it should be recognized that all sectors of the population should have a voice and equal opportunity in the college system.

Let’s now turn our attention to some other related facts not mentioned in the article.

As of the 1970 census, the United States percentage of whites was 85.675 percent while non-whites were 14.325 percent.

The California population breakdown has whites 87.657 percent and 12.343 percent non-whites.

It should also be noted that the estimated 1976 ethnic percentage for California is approximately 80 percent white and 12 percent non-white.

It would be incongruous from this add­ed data that the Cal Poly student population very closely resembles the California ethnic make up and very nearly for the rest of the United States as well.

It would seem that proportionately the Cal Poly student populace does reflect the ethnic make up of the California population, and that minorities are being represented adequately on campus.

I agree that better standards for ac­ceptance into the University should be developed, but giving special consider­ation to any group—white, black or hispanic—could not be tolerated. As a matter of fact, the system should be applauded for its ability to maintain a propor­tionally equal student population that does reflect the population of the California society.

Mark James Newland

Vote!

Typically, in San Luis Obispo city elections, the Cal Poly student voter turnout has been dismal, at best.

Do you want Cal Poly to grow? Do you think married housing and a fraternity row are needed on campus? How about off-campus housing? Do you believe the rent you’re paying is too high?

You, the voter, have these choices to make by the can­ onal. Do you want Cal Poly to grow? Do you think married hous­ ing and a fraternity row are needed on campus? How about off­ campus housing? Do you believe the rent you’re paying is too high?

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