FROM OUR READERS

Editor's Note: The following letters on the spring 2000 issue were edited for brevity.

I just wanted to thank you for Cal Poly Magazine. The articles were so interesting and well written I could not put [the issue] down once I started reading. I am especially excited about both MaxiVision (being a bit of a movie nut) and the plastic products of the future (especially since I work in the electronics industry in Silicon Valley). It really is exciting to learn about all the great things going on at Cal Poly and in the lives of alumni. Thank you so much for producing such a wonderful journal.

— Shari Mullen (POLS '82)

Especially interesting are the feature articles recognizing the various colleges. [My wife and I have a personal interest] in bio/agricultural engineering majors, since our son and son-in-law graduated in the mid-70s along with a daughter-in-law and daughter in home economics. The addition over the years of other disciplines [enhancing] the effectiveness of the university is well and good, [providing] a well-rounded offering ..., but [I was disappointed to see] the feature on [alumnus Al Yankovic], who is pursuing a career in music that appears to feed on the rock culture scene. In my opinion this gives a wrong impression of the traditional and important values that Cal Poly represents ... as a university that upholds a “hands-on” approach in learning.

— Jack H. Nikkel

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ON THE COVER

Environmental Horticultural Science Professor Tom Eltzroth (center) goes over an outline of plantings for the College of Agriculture’s Leaning Pine Arboretum with senior Chris Wassenberg (EHS ’01) and alumna Meg Abel (EHS ’00). The arboretum is a beautiful living laboratory for Cal Poly students that showcases Mediterranean plants and trees from Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and California (see story beginning on page 9).

( Photo by Cole Bybee [ART ’00]/Karlen Design, cover design by Jeff Hamilton [ART ’97] and Paul Karlen [GRC ’76]/Karlen Design)
Writer and Public Affairs Director Jeff Bliss responds in part:

Mr. Yankovic is among Cal Poly's most visible alumni, with a worldwide audience totaling in the millions. He is certainly part of popular culture, but one of the things that sets him apart from other artists and musicians is that he cleverly satirizes their work. With regards to the hands-on approach to learning, I believe Mr. Yankovic serves as another Cal Poly “learn-by-doing” success story. A musician prior to enrolling at the university, he was able to parlay his talents with skills he learned working at Cal Poly’s radio station, KCPR.

A differing reader response to the same story follows:

Your article about Al Yankovic (“I just can’t call him “Weird”) came at a great time. I have kids 12 and 8, and they love Al’s [Disney radio album] parodies. You gave me a walk down memory lane and my kids are impressed. Keep up the good work on the magazine. I enjoy hearing what is happening at Cal Poly and seeing what the graduates are doing.

— Linda Puckett-Perkins (AM ’81)

The following are responses to questions by several readers to the SPORTS NEWS article, “Five Mustangs still riding high”:

1) Which former Mustangs hold the top “most points scored in a single season”?
   1) Gary Davis, RB — 1976 96
   2) Perry Jeter, RB — 1953 89
   3) Mike Allshouse, RB — 1996 80
   4) James Tuthill, K — 1995 79
   5) Craig Young, RB — 1997 78

2) Is one of those record holders a former kicking specialist?
   James Tuthill

3) Who was the very first kicking specialist offered a scholarship to play football at Cal Poly?
   (No record available)

4) Of all the record-holders in all sports, who has held his/her record the longest?
   Jim Antoine (1955-57), for a career punt return average of 12.6