ROTC Is Marching Back

See story on page 4

Cover photo by Mike Shafer
**State Of The Union Message: A Disappointment**

Judged as a political document aimed at improving his position among Republicans against the election-year challenge of Ronald Reagan, President Ford's State of the Union message may have been a success. By any other standard, it was a disappointment.

The President expressed in the opening minutes of his speech a pride of country appropriate in this bicentennial year. And he was able to report that the economic outlook is brighter than it was a year ago, when the country was suffering the simultaneous jags of double-digit inflation and deep recession.

To make sure that economic recovery continues, Ford's proposal for an additional $1 billion federal income-tax cut is well taken. So is his call for restraint on spending, though reasonable men will disagree over where the line should be drawn. His proposal for changes in the inheritance-tax laws, aimed at making it possible for family farms and businesses to be passed on from one generation to another, strikes as sensible in concept.

Taken as a whole, however, the President's address was a bland, untimely document that was long on rhetoric about welfare cheat and food-stamp "scandals" and woefully short on real programs to deal with real problems.

Aside from proposing an extension of federal revenue sharing, for example, Ford did not even mention the acute financial plight of the cities.

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Potful of plants...an4 dollar (Daily photo)

Everything's Coming Up Roses; Plant Business Starting To Bud

by MERRILL MCCARTY
Daily Star Writer

Walk into any student's apartment and you may see a Jew wandering around the coffee table, Charlie on top of the bookshelf, and a spider hanging from the ceiling.

These strange denizens, however, are not animate and definitely not dangerous. They just mildly do their thing for people involved in a booming nationwide fad.

Plants. Wandering Jews, Creeping Charlie, and Spider Plants are some of the more popular varieties of houseplants in an industry that has doubled its production in California in the last three years.

Who has brought all this on?

To ask the plant buyers themselves brings largely indefinite answers. Interest in ecology, satisfaction in caring for something, and company are the reasons given most often.

Dr. Howard C. Brown, head of the Ornamental Horticultural Department, had another idea on the reasons. "Business in OH," he said, "has always been good in times of stress such as depression or a recession. Plants serve as an emotional outlet, a tranquilizing activity."

Jenny Wakefield, of Central Park West, a local plant man, thinks that "plants have become a fad because people are staying home more, due to the energy crisis, and are paying more attention to their own small environment." Interest in the environment, or being natural, seems to be the predominant theme of the plant explosion.

One slightly grumpy plant owner said, "Yeah, everyone has to be organic nowadays, and I fell into the trap."

As to who is buying the plants, everyone seems to agree that is largely young people. Nina Harris, of The Greenery, an indoor plant outlet described customers of the shop as "people under 36 and old ladies, but the real business comes from young people."

And business is doing fine, thank you. Brown quotes figures showing $20 million worth of potted plants produced in California in 1972, and $158.5 million produced in 1981. The figures are still climbing both statewide and on a national basis.

Locally, plant shops have sprung up like wild flowers, naming a great majority of them within the last two years. The phone book lists a column and a half of plant shops in the local area alone.

As success, everyone seems to be doing well enough. Some have rapidly rising sales rates, while others are hitting the pinch of competition.

"Almost three years ago," said Caroline Moraw of Rustic Gardens Nursery, "our business increased for about two years. We were the only ones in town that sold houseplants. Then everyone decided this was good to get into, and our business share of the boom has leveled off."

Many stores are selling plants as a sideline, helping to spread interest.

"Supermarkets," said Brown, "have brought plants into the hands of people who would not normally have gone to a nursery or a plant store. Many of these sales are impulsive.

You can't see the plants for the... plants (Daily photo)
Troops Fall In As Program Builds

by STEVE WARNOFF
Daily Staff Writer

In the late 1960s one of the main concerns on college campuses was the conflict in Viet Nam. Anti-war demonstrations triggered anti-military actions across the nation. Since that period, feelings have generally cooled down. Student actions against the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) program have, like Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's protest songs, become golden oldies.

The ROTC program at Cal Poly, which was founded in 1952, is now trying to rebuild its program. It is concerned with students interested in some form of military service after graduation from college.

The ROTC is responsible for the military science studies on campus. The departmental courses are open for any student wishing to take a course from Military Science to World Affairs.

The participants usually begin the program in their freshman year. At the beginning of his junior year, he begins to receive $100 a month after volunteering to participate in some form of military duty after graduation from college.

The ROTC program at Cal Poly supports 180 students, which includes 26 women.

Colonel Robert McKee, ROTC Commander at Cal Poly said, "After college, jobs are hard to come by. The students in ROTC obtain a job in the military that involves leadership and management of men. Most college graduates don't get into leadership positions.

According to McKee, the major goal of the ROTC program is to obtain well educated officers in sufficient numbers to support the United States military. Since the days of protest over the Viet Nam war, the number of students in the program has declined.

According to McKee, the large ROTC program of the late 60s was due to the large number of students that joined to avoid the draft.

The ROTC program is slowly starting to rebuild itself at Cal Poly, but McKee says the all-volunteer army is keeping the number of enrollments down because there is no draft to lie.

Whatever the amount, the students in ROTC are active in all areas of military programs on campus. One Saturday a month they are engaged in "hands on" training. "Hands on" training applies the practice for what they learn in the classroom.

Clubs like the Saber and Blade perform services for the community and are "presently involved in planning a military ball. Another program is the Color Guard which represents the military in football games, assorted ceremonies and parades."

According to McKee, ROTC women keep up with the men.

McKee says, "Women do exactly what the men do, except for offensive and defensive operations (actual combat practice). I feel that the women are a valuable part of the program."

Field Training Exercises (FTE) are an important part of the ROTC program. During FTE, participation in combat situations help train the student. Dismantled weapons are used during the learning sessions.

Richard Slebak, economics major and ROTC member, says, "The additional dollars a month didn’t sound bad either."

According to Slebak, the program will afford him the flying lessons at the Santa Maria airport during his senior year.

'I have a strong sense of duty for my country.'

"I feel that those who want to become future officers have some knowledge of what duty is," says Slebak between puffs on his cigar. "We expect to be treated like adults in the ROTC. Here, I’m happy to say we’re treated as future soldiers."

Scott Maughan, History Professor has this to say about ROTC: "The ROTC ensures that officers recognize that in America the military serves our political and cultural system," says Maughan.

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Greenless Garden
Poly's Botanical Garden--A Dollar Desert

by ROBIN HARRY
Daily Staff Writer

Natural beauty is not always dirt cheap, according to Dr. Malcolm McCloud, Biological Science faculty member, said financing has always been the main problem of the Cal Poly botanical garden.

The acting director of the garden stated, "There is no funding for botanical gardens in the state college system," and added "Therefore, our progress has been very slow."

Cal Poly's botanical garden, and gardens throughout the world, are used for the study and culture of native plants.

The botanical garden located on the way to Poly Canyon was a dream of Dr. Robert Hoover, a biologist and instructor at Cal Poly in 1945.

Over the past 30 years funding the garden has been a catch-22-when-you-can project.

From an agricultural growing land to a natural wonder, the garden has faced many developmental conflicts.

Discussing one of the problems, McCloud said, "The land up there is really dry, and without proper irrigation it is almost impossible to keep the garden going."

There wasn't any money available for an irrigation system until 1970 when an answer to the water problem came in the form of an old firetruck which had burned while on duty. The discarded truck became the tank for a new water system, explained Dr. Robert Rodin, also a faculty member of the Biological Science Department.

Although that did not solve the problem entirely, the tank was a start. It was also cheap.

The botanical garden is made up of many species of plants ranging from ferns to poisonous grass said McCloud. "We stress native plants. We also stress things that are already there."

Most of the plants are native to the county with a few exceptions to the rule coming from other parts of California.

One of the native inhabitants is the Mariposa Lily which is on the rare plant list and only grows in this part of the state. Another is the Native Bunch Grass which grows wild in the San Joaquin Valley, until the land in the valley was cultivated, and the grass was buried in the earth.

Those who aren't biologists, botanists, or plant enthusiasts may stroll through the garden without realizing what natural wonders they have seen.

The garden serves multiple purposes— including a laboratory for biological science majors.

There are two seniors working on putting finishing touches on a poisonous plant garden. "There is no need to worry about the poisonous plants," said McCloud, since "they're the kind of plants that no one would normally eat."
WASHINGTON UPi - There is a budding romance between President Ford's son Jack and tennis star Chris Evert.

"They enjoy each other's company," said Sheila Weisfeld, the first lady's press secretary.

Jack, 21, and Chris, 22, met Tuesday and had their first dinner date in the evening. At his invitation, she will be coming to lunch at the White House.

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**Supersonic Jet Travel**

UPI - With a mighty roar of jet engines and publicity, Britain and France Wednesday launched the age of international supersonic passenger travel.

"The day of glory has arrived," proclaimed Air France President Albert Kohler, "and is the beginning of a new era."

Kohler joined a British Airways executive in London, Tuesday, and the two previewed a flight over Paris that took off Wednesday from London's Heathrow airport for Bahrain on the Persian Gulf and then to Casablanca.

The British Airways Concorde made the 5,752-mile flight in three hours, 31 minutes - a saving of four hours and 11 minutes.

Jackie O. made the 5,290-mile trip to Rio with a refueling stop in Dakar, Senegal, in 77 minutes, a saving of four hours and 55 minutes.

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**School Wants Representative**

Student Affairs Council needs a representative from the school of Engineering and Technology. Interested persons should attend School council meetings on Wed. at 3:30 p.m. in room 225 in the University Union. Applications could also be made by leaving a message in the Student office call 516-1290. Elections will be held at a School Council meeting.

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**IRS Again Investigating Nixon**

WASHINGTON UPI - The Internal Revenue Service again is investigating the $450,000 tax deduction Richard M. Nixon took for his vice presidential salary for the year 1972.

The IRS stopped an audit in 1974, concluding it did not have the evidence to prosecute the former president for civil tax fraud.

But the Washington Post and the New York Times repeated the IRS findings that it may be able to prove Nixon knew about a back-sharded deal claiming an illegal deduction when he gave the papers to the National Archives.

Nixon officials would not confirm or deny the reports. The agency never discusses individual tax returns.

Presidential Secretary Ron Nessen said the White House knew nothing of an IRS raid to be held today. In fact, if there was one the executive branch would not be notified of it.

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**Senate Panel May Control CIA Operations**

WASHINGTON UPI - Chairman Frank Church of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which has just had its first meeting, is set to introduce a proposal that details of covert American operations would be excluded from the panel's final report.

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**Plants: Everything's Coming Up Roses.**

Although President Ford pardoned Nixon for any crime he may have committed when Nixon was president, the report said, the IRS was trying to determine whether Nixon should have to pay fraud penalties in connection with a conspiracy to back-date the documents.

If fraud is found, Nixon could have to pay $222,121.45, which $14,090.97 would be for a 1969 tax deficiency the IRS found in 1974, and $74,040.48 would be a 50-per-cent penalty for fraud, the papers said.

The IRS's tax finding is now being challenged in a fraud assessment, but would have to pay the 1969 tax deficiency because the three-year statute of limitations expired - but fraud has no statute of limitations and makes the deficiency collectable.

When the back-dating of the deed was found, Nixon put the IRS 1284,708.18 in taxes and penalties for his 1970-72 returns, and said he would pay the 1969 deficiency. He has not.

"The boom has definitely helped in employment opportunities for OH graduates," said Brown. Apparently OH graduates, they are hot as a plant grows."
Mustangs Need CCAA Wins

By JON HASTINGS
Daily Sports Editor

The CCAA basketball schedule will be full swing this week with the Mustangs right in the thick of things.

The CCAA is the Pacific Eight of Division II basketball this year. All six teams have a chance to win the title with Cal State LA and Cal Poly Pomona considered the favorites. Cal State Bakersfield with its 18-2 record and defending champ UC Riverside are strong candidates.

Northridge has already played two CCAA games and is 1-1 in conference play. Cal State LA and Pomona defeated the Mustangs by six and 12 points respectively. Northridge can't afford to drop down to 0-3.

Just as Northridge can't afford to lose three in a row, Cal Poly must win one of its two conference games this weekend. If the Mustangs don't get a win in Northridge, they are going to find victory harder to find the next two weeks. LA and Pomona defeated the Mustangs by six and 12 points respectively, Cal State LA has always been considered an excellent basketball school and it has been traditionally strong at home. LA is 2-0 in CCAA action thus far.

Lenie Wheeler's Mustangs are coming off two straight road wins and they would no doubt like to continue that streak this weekend. Last week Poly defeated Westminster and Irvine on the road.

Wheeler has been receiving excellent play from junior guard Gerald Jones. The first team all-CCAA guard scored 24, 31, and 19 points in last week's games. He made 9 of 14 field goals and 22 of 26 free throws, and contributed nine assists. He was named the player of the week.

Jones is the fourth leading scorer in the conference. Cal State LA's Tommy Lively is the conference's leading scorer and he is shooting 61 percent from the floor.

Wheeler will have his hands full trying to stop the former LA City Prep Player of the Year. But before Wheeler can start worrying about Lively, he has got to be concerned with Northridge. At this point, Northridge is enough to worry about.

Northridge and Cal State LA this weekend for crucial CCAA games. (Daily photo by Alan Halfhill)

by JON HASTINGS
Daily Sports Editor

UC Santa Barbara will invade the Men's Gym this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. for an intercollegiate volleyball match. Santa Barbara has volleyball what UCLA has for basketball.

This Saturday's match is like Ohio State coming to down the No. 1 ranked Bachelor. UCSB finished second in the NCAAs major college division last year. The Gauchos have potential like only two players in the conference.

UCSB has won three pre-season tournaments this year and has already defeated defending national champions UCLA. The Gauchos are coached by ex-Olympic player, Ed Monier and they have three excellent players in Gary Nave, Dave Hoover and Erik Pavel. Nave is a setter while Hoover and Pavel are hitters.

Poly coach, Ken Preston, said it is going to take a super effort by everyone involved for the Mustangs to upset UCSB. "If we play well, we can play with them," said Preston. "UCSB is in mid-season form and I think it might be overwhelming." Preston added. "We are a good team without that abundance of talent and I don't know if they realize that."

Some of that talent Preston is talking about is senior Todd McMillan and junior Steve Russell. McMillan is a hitter while Russell is a setter. Both were first team all conference last year. "Russell calls the plays out there and he is the quarterback of the club," said Preston. "He is an extremely smart player."

Preston is expected to use only one setter in his starting lineup. Senior setter Steve Montanez has been voted to the team last year due to personal reasons. Montanez will not be missed. Other starters in the Mustang line-up will be Rick Hackett, an all conference hitter; Paul Schindler, a blocker from state junior college champ, San Bernardino Valley; Linda Lienier, a former football player who has been hit by chickenpox during the home event and Nat Kaimei, a hard working junior who excels in all layers of the game.

Perez Lewis, a setter from San Bernardino, and talented freshman Gary Kelly are also expected to see plenty of action. He will have to call the play and decide if a setter or hitter is the way to go. He will be calling along with Russell. "Gary is a hard hitter, a fundamental player," said Preston. "Kelly in fundamentally sound and Preston calls him 'smooth.'"

Some of the Mustang players feel they can upset the Gauchos. "We can do it if everyone contributes what they are capable of doing," said Kaimei.
SINCE we started rehearsing
I haven't stopped...literally.

Don't dance on the wet paint!
...and don't step on Mike.

Photos by Tony Hertz

"Sea Of Dames" Sets Sail Friday In San Luis

by SUNE WHITE
Daily Staff Writer

Dames at Sea is about ready to be christened, and it looks like smooth sailing from now on.

The play, presented by the San Luis Obispo Little Theaters, opens Friday for its extended eight day run. All dress rehearsals are being marked sick for successful musical comedian productions thus far, as it is distinctly called by the cast and director alike, is being loaded-making good luck.

Directed and choreographed by Michael Quijada, a member of Cal Poly's Haplo program as well as a Broadway veteran, he lends a professional touch to the play. His stamp of approval has gone on everything from the simplest dame step to the lighting and sets.

"Since we started rehearsing, I haven't stopped, literally," said Quijada, slumped in one of the theatre chairs. "I really have put in a lot of time, including all my Saturdays and Sundays, but it's worth it."

The time Quijada has spent is beginning to pay off, although there are still some bugs to iron out before opening night. The pianos need tuning and customers must figure somehow to keep the sailor hats on the sailor's heads, but these are the kinds of problems directors don't mind having.

The story of Dames at Sea involves a sweet, young farm girl fresh off a bus from Utah, who arrives on Broadway...with only her traveled dancing shoes. Kolby's ready for her log book and gets her change with a show whose director has had 12 flops in a row. The show is high camp and straight out of an old 1930's Radioakt Bayle musicale.

The sets are designed by Michael Brooks who recognizes the glitter and glamour of the time. Brooks, a professional set designer, has worked on both live and television productions in Los Angeles. He's also the director's friend.

"I'm just doing this as a favor for Michael; we went to school together at the University of California at Santa Cruz. It's fun and I'm glad to be able to help him out."

As rehearsed Brooks rapped on his hands and knees, paint brush in hand, as he worked diligently on his ingenious make-believe creations. He designed the sets to create the illusion of having a larger cast in certain scenes. By using mural, a painted paper, he can make 11 dancers look like the New York Rockettes.

Meanwhile back at rehearsal the director is shouting wise words to the cast, "Don't dance on the wet paint! Step over those boards and don't step on Mike!"

Not even slowing down for wet paint, the cast kept going forgetting their tired feet and weary voices. Every available table in the small theatre was strewn with overflowing ashtrays and half-filled coffee cups. Empty food wrappers from nearby Arnie Circle remain as evidence of how many quick meals the cast and crew have grabbed between numbers.

Our gas number claims they go there so often that they're almost wearing out their welcome, if that's possible.

"I can't count the times we've come over here ordering a dozen cups of coffee and empyoring their whole pot."

Drinking a lot of that coffee as well as starring in Dames are Man VanVirta as Dick, who also designed the costumes, Debbie Winsor as Kolby and Lisa Hatfield as Mona.

The play will run Jan. 23 through the 25th and from the 26th to Feb. 1, at the San Luis Obispo Little Theater, 130 Monterey. Tickets are on sale now; adults $2.10, students $1.75 and senior citizens $1. For reservations call 543-9731.