Bonehead English: Righting It Write

Cover photo by Mark MacKinnon
Johnny Can't 'Rite'

To say that many recent college students are unable to write clearly or effectively is to state the obvious. A recent poll shows that 40 to 60 percent of the students enrolled in the nation's university and college system "are not capable enough of written expression to be able to handle college work."

Many are the teachers who can tell horror stories of students in freshman comp classes who write such sentences as "I use too bad a good riter. But, like ya know, it's a real shame. Ya know?"

A generation of television addicts has matured and is now descending on colleges throughout the nation. They can't tell you who Hemingway or Shakespeare were but if you asked them who stars on "I'M A SINNER" or "The Bonnie Woman" they could rattle off the names in 30 seconds. It is used to be that leisure time was spent curled up on the couch with a nice thick novel. Now, many would-be college students can't use English effectively because they cannot think in disciplined fashion.

Many crises have been heard from college educators that the entrance exams have changed so that these reading and writing problems can be identified before students enter college. The reasoning behind this is that many high school teachers would place a heavier emphasis on these skills while the students were at an age where their habits could be changed.

Unfortunately, it appears that the high schools just are not meeting their responsibilities of preparing entering freshmen for the demands of college. The burden has come to rest on the colleges.

As a result, teachers at Cal Poly, as well as countless other universities throughout America, may be required to use precious teachers and classroom space to do a job that should have been done in high school and earlier.

The California State University and Colleges' task force on writing skills has recommended a program that will attempt to halt the decline in writing skills among freshmen.

The proposal should be approved by the Board of Trustees. The state legislature should make every attempt, we believe, to see that this program is properly funded. The need to communicate clearly in today's society is a vital one.

College students should be able to read and write effectively. Just because the high schools have failed to do the job properly there is no reason why the colleges should not have one last chance to improve their skills before they are let loose in search of a job.

The most tragic figure of our time has long been, for me, Mr. Nixon's decline in New Woodward and Bernsen have written the end of that tragedy in their new book, "The Final Act." It is an ugly ending. From the portions of the book that have been leaked to the press, Mr. Nixon is pictured during his last days in the White House, as a drunken, ranting, assaulted, alternately screaming and sobbing, ranting and begging, and pounding his fist on the floor.

The Nixon haters will doubt that this is the end. They have buried him time and again before. And each time he has somehow risen to haunt the corridors of power. Even after Watergate, Deep Throat was in Peking, conferring with world leaders as an equal.

But this time, I think, the stake has been driven through his heart. I am sorry for the way it was done.

It is a question of respect. To me, Mr. Nixon is a failure who was unfortunate—not fame, fortune or love, but respect. I covered him through four campaigns. I talked to him privately on only three occasions. Yet, each time I did I was reminded of when I was seven. We had a club. There was one kid we wouldn't let in. We didn't hate him. It was just that he was the kind of kid you wouldn't let play unless it was his turn.

Finally, with childish cruelty, we put them through an elaborate initiation. Then we debated the club, formed another and offered to initiate him again. The third time he fled home in tears, shouting, "I'll show you."

So I thought of the young Mr. Nixon—the bench warmer for the football team, the awkward boy at parties in the wrong clothes, with no capacity for small talk, the friendless kid. "I'll show you" he must have said.

And he did. He was a highly intelligent man, a masterful politician and a brilliant statesman. By 1972 he had won the respect of most of the world. How jealously he guarded that respect. How fearful he was that his enemies would somehow take it from him. What a grand fatal flaw for a tragic hero!

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Final Act Finished In Nixon's Tragedy

Clear and a little warmer. Highs today in the mid 60's and 70's. Small craft advisory for NW winds, 15 to 20 miles per hour.

Weather

Masturdaily welcomes letters from all viewpoints. Length of letters should be limited to 500 words—typed and double spaced. Letters will not be published without a signature and student ID number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Sorry, but no party is acceptable. Being seniors on Graphic Arts, Room 229.

The Mustang Daily welcomes letters from all viewpoints. Length of letters should be limited to 500 words—typed and double spaced. Letters will not be published without a signature and student ID number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Sorry, but no party is acceptable. Being seniors on Graphic Arts, Room 229.
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On-Campus Interviews
Wednesday
March 31, 1976
See Your Placement Office

Bike Violators
May Be Strapped
With Citations

by RANDY NAX
Daily Staff Writer

Bicycle moving violations will be enforced the
quarter—the penalties will be the same as those given to
automobile drivers.

"The first two weeks of the quarter will be a warning
period. Campus police will stop violators, warn
them and issuing copies of the new Bicycle
Safety Guide," said Ray Pena, administrative
assistant to the director of business affairs.

"On the third week of classes, citations will be issued to
riders committing violations," said Pena.

The guidelines are the same as if the violation occurred
while driving an automobile:
A speeding ticket for example will result in a notice to
appear in court, and then payment of the subsequent
court fine if the violation is found guilty.

"The goal is to inform riders that there are traffic
code sections related to violations by bicycle riders—
many of which they (bicycle riders) aren't aware of," said Pena.

The crackdown, according to Pena, is part of a two
part program prompted by the increased volume of
pavement accidents and accidents by bicycle riders.

The basic problems, according to Pena, are speeding,
running stop signs, and failing to yield to parked vehicles.

"This creates hazards for pedestrians and also increases
chances of being hit by a car while riding," he added.

"The two phases of the plan are educational and
enforcement," said James Landrum, Director of
business affairs.

The informational phase includes the establishment of
the Bicycle Safety Guide. This is the same guide campus
police will distribute to violators during the two-week
warning period.

The handout is now, but the campus regulations aren't.
They are published every quarter in the Student
Pudding and Bicycle Requirements handbook distributed
during registration.

"Our hope is to get word to bicycle riders and make
actual citations to a minimum. When students find we are
enforcing, and that citations will be given when
enforcement is necessary, I hope we get the message," said Pena.

"We plan to follow-up the program by monitoring the
results and modifying it if we obtain over better results," said Pena.

According to Pena, these discussions are being
discussed, and we are recommending to students
who are encouraging them, but we just want them to do it
safely.

Talcott Named Member
of Dirty Dozen Again

by JOE SANCHEZ
Daily Staff Writer

The more things change,
the more they stay the
same, or so it seems to
Environmental Action, Inc.,
the Washington D.C. based
environmental group.
And so the 1974 edition of the "Dirty Dosen" list
compiled by the group will again have a name familiar
to most San Luis Obispo County
Congressman Burt L.
Talcott.
This is the second time the
Bellisma Republican has
made the Dirty Dosen list,
having been previously
named to the list in 1974.
Talcott, according to
Dirty Dosen campaign
director Dante Baez,
was qualified for the list by
voting correctly only twice
out of the key votes the
environmental group used
to rate Congress in 1974.

"More significant than
Talcott's score, which is bad
enough, is his indifference to
the environmental issues
crucial to his district," said
Baez.

Clean, safe energy,
careful pesticides use and
alternatives to the automobile are some of the
issues Talcott is "ignoring."

Talcott, along with the other 11 members of the
Dirty Dosen has targeted for special at
tention by the Dirty Dosen
Campaign of Environmental Action, Inc.,
during the 1976 election
year.

According to Baez, the environmental group has
reorganized into each of the 13 congressional districts
at an attempt to rally support from
district residents to defeat
the Dirty Dosen.

Talcott survived a similar
try in 1974, barely
challenger Julian Canales
by 900 votes.
Coach Hurdles Deafness
by DIANE BOOTH
Daily Staff Writer

Life is an uphill struggle for most people, but some have to run twice as fast and jump twice as many hurdles just to stay in the race.

Cal Poly's Women's Track coach, Linda McArthur, has been striving to jump the obstacle that has plagued her since birth—deafness.

"My philosophy is that there is always another way to do everything. I compensate for the things that I can't do," she says.

The use of a hearing aid helps McArthur to distinguish sounds, but not words. She cannot project her voice, so she supplements her soft, whispery monotone with frequent gesticulation and facial expressions.

"I wanted to teach normal people as opposed to the handicapped, because I wanted to improve myself," she says. "If I associated exclusively with the deaf, by not talking with others I would backslide on my speech."

According to McArthur, it is as much a learning experience for the kids as it is for her. "It is important to get to know and to work with someone who is handicapped," she says.

Track team member Karen Johnson says, "It's no hassle, she just reads very well, you just have to remember to listen to her when you are talking."

McArthur claims the team learns to be more attentive because they need to concentrate more closely on what they are doing and what message she is trying to convey. "I am very sensitive to their thoughts and through eye contact I let them know how they are doing. Attentiveness results in a better performance because they are in control of themselves," she says.

McArthur has taught at the college level since her graduation from Cal Poly in 1971. She taught in New Mexico for a year and did part-time instructing in Washington, while working toward her master's degree. She spent a year in Nebraska before returning to Cal Poly last fall, this time as an instructor.

McArthur has been working with speech therapists since she was three, and saw a therapist on a weekly basis, but she smiles and adds, "the students and faculty are right there to help me out."
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The rigorous new program is an attempt to halt the decline in writing abilities in incoming freshman and upper level undergraduates. First proposed in late January by a special faculty group, the proposal could affect a large number of the 311,306 students in the CSUC system. If approved by the trustees, the proposal would—beginning no sooner than September 1977—require every entering freshman and transfer student to pass a writing proficiency examination. Those who score high enough on the test would be given credit for required freshman composition courses. Those who fail the test would be forced to take a non-credit remedial (or bonehead) class. A second test would be given in a student’s junior year. It would have to be passed in order for the student to enroll in senior courses. Thus, those who could not demonstrate acceptable writing ability would not be allowed to graduate.

The faculty group’s recommendations were made after a poll on the ayatsma 19 campuses showed that between 40 and 60 percent of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC students have “40 to 60 percent” of the state budget to fund the proposal. Brown has so far told all state agencies there will be no new monies for new projects. —*

“T H E  p r o g r a m  f o r t h e f i r s t t i m e  w i l l p r o v i d e d a t a ,” a i d E d C a i r n s , a C a l P o l y E n g l i s h p r o f e s s o r  w h o  i s w o r k i n g w i t h  t h e p r o p o s a l, “i t s a t h a t  p r o g r a m  o f t h e s c o p e  a n d  s e q u e n c e s  t h a t  a r e  s u g g e s t i n g  w i l l  b e  l a r g e  a n d  e x p e n s i v e .”

White listed a variety of possible reasons which might account for the drop in writing abilities, none of which could be positively pinned down. Statistics show student Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and Achievement Test (ACT) scores have gone down from 15 to 14 per cent nationally. Poly freshman, however, average slightly better than the national average.

White says the proposal would not be a barrier to minority students, but more of a booster program. “The worst kind of racism,” White said, “is saying no matter how much help you give minority, they will never be able to read or write.” White said it is “white liberal” who are arguing this for the “so-called minorities.”

White also said he hoped that the program isn’t forced to be student funded. “The weakest students are going to have to pay extra in this case,” said White. “This would be intolerable socially.”

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English

by JIM SWENNEY

The California State University and Colleges’ task force on writing skills has proposed dramatic changes for the system but there probably won’t be enough loose change in the state budget to fund them.

The rigorous new program is an attempt to halt the decline in writing abilities in incoming freshman and upper level undergraduates. First proposed in late January by a special faculty group, the proposal could affect a large number of the 311,306 students in the CSUC system.

If approved by the trustees, the proposal would—beginning no sooner than September 1977—require every entering freshman and transfer student to pass a writing proficiency examination. Those who score high enough on the test would be given credit for required freshman composition courses. Those who fail the test would be forced to take a non-credit remedial (or bonehead) class.

A second test would be given in a student’s junior year. It would have to be passed in order for the student to enroll in senior courses. Thus, those who could not demonstrate acceptable writing ability would not be allowed to graduate.

The faculty group’s recommendations were made after a poll on the ayatsma 19 campuses showed that between 40 and 60 percent of the students now remedial (or bonehead) class.

The program is being circulated to the 19 CSUC campuses for their consideration. It is scheduled for revision in April and the task force’s final report should be submitted to the CSUC Board of Trustees in May.

The trustees will then vote to approve or defeat the proposition. Sources close to the task force said the recommendations are acceptable and likely to be approved by the trustees.

The next step would be to submit the proposal to the state legislature for approval and funding.

The task force proposes a remedial (or bonehead) English course to prepare students writing at a sub-college level for college English courses.

A section of Title IV of the educational code prohibits sub-college instruction in the CSUC system. So the legislature would have to pass the recommendations in a bill.

“Title IV says you get no more load credit for pre-college work which means you get no funding,” explains White.

The legislature would also have to approve additional budgetary support for the proposal. Otherwise it would be funded by charging additional fees to students forced to enroll in bonehead English.

The latter method is employed by the University of California in its Subject A remedial English course. But this approach is not widely accepted, the feeling being that this is victimizing students with lesser writing abilities.

After Gov. Edmund G. Brown vetoed state funding for the Subject A program last year, UC Santa Cruz abolished the program instituting a similar system which grants college credit for remedial English.

But additional fees would probably have to be paid on top of the state funding. Brown has so far told all state agencies there will be no new monies for new projects.

And the program would be an expensive one if it encompassed “40 to 60 percent” of the total CSUC enrollees.”

“One of the primary concerns,” said Ed Cairns, a Cal Poly English professor who is working with the proposal, “is that a program of the scope and sequence they are suggesting will be a large and expensive program.”

Cairns also delineated just how students’ grammatical skills have slipped.

“The language is more casual, the exact meaning of words is paid less attention and the use of what is generally considered as accepted American usage have fallen down,” Cairns said.

“They seem to have dropped in all standard measures in ability to deal with what the country expects as standard edited English,” Cairns added. But he quickly noted that this “doesn’t mean everything is sub-standard.”

White said the task force didn’t have enough information to pinpoint specific weaknesses with an entrance testing. But almost all campuses feel they have “serious writing problems,” according to White.

“The program for the first time will provide data of specific weaknesses,” said the task force consultant. “We know we have students who can’t even read well, but we don’t know how many and we don’t know where their problems are.”

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By JIM SWENNEY
Cheap Texts That Got To Go!

Help the Poly, Phase Bookstore empty their shelves of cheap used texts for every class. Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during registration and through the first week of classes. Mustang Lounge.

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A Fight To Stop
A Huge Teamster Strike

Patty And Harris' Just Miss A Chance Meeting

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Patricia Hearst and William and Emily Harris appeared in the same courtroom Monday as their hearings were held an hour apart and the heiress never came face to face with her Symbionese Liberation Army captors. Miss Hearst was whisked to Los Angeles and back to the San Francisco area in a secrecy-shrouded operation involving planes, helicopters and auto convoys and she spent only five minutes in court for arraignment on charges of kidnapping and assault.

The 22-year-old defendant, already convicted of federal bank robbery and facing sentences April 12, did not enter a plea to the Los Angeles charges growing out of an incident in which she sprayed a store with machinegun bullets, allegedly to help the Harrises escape arrest.

Miss Hearst's case was continued until April 14 when her attorneys will argue for a severance of her trial from that of the Harris on grounds of conflict of defense. She had named them as her kidnappers during her eight-week bank robbery trial and said she was in deadly fear of them.

The Harrises, on the other hand, are seeking to have all three of them go on trial together.

Premier Criminal Division Judge Jack E. Goetsman denied a motion by lawyer Leonard Weinglass that their trial be delayed a year because of the tremendous publicity surrounding the SLA and the Harrises kidnapping and trial.

Weinglass had argued that the Hearst case was the No. 1 news story in the United States and that the tremendous news coverage and public interest made a fair trial impossible at this time.

The two hearings were held in small "maximum security" courtroom on the 16th floor of the Criminal Courts Building. It has a bulletproof glass panel separating the spectators and press from the well of the court occupied by the judge, defendants, attorneys, jury and bailiffs.

Edward Wise, a commissioner in Mediation and Conciliation Service, predicted a round of urgent talks would follow formal notice of the strike on an industry bargaining.

The two cases were being talked about as a Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service proposed a 20 percent pay raise over 29 months. The union has demanded that they both be made permanent.

The hearing on the proposed settlement was set for tomorrow.

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Arlington Heights, Ill. (UPI) — The federal government's top mediators, with White House backing, Monday sought to head off a strike of 400,000 Teamsters Union members that could cripple the nation's economy. The government's economic assistance is expected to be a major factor in the long-term recovery of the nation's economy. The government's top negotiator was a former labor mediator.

The hearing on the proposed settlement was set for tomorrow.
New Alumni Head Named

John Lucin

New officers have been elected in the Cal Poly Alumni Association by means of a ballot mailed to all members during March. John Lucin was elected international president of the association and will coordinate the chapters located throughout the country. Lucin received his master's degree in education in 1968, and was assistant director of student activities at Cal Poly from 1968-70. He now works as a stockbroker in San Jose.


Owen L. Serwint, a professor in the business administration department at Cal Poly, was re-elected secretary/treasurer.

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Out of the grinding machinery of American politics struggles the defining issue of the most unusual presidential race in the history of democracy—George O. Papoon, 1976 presidential candidate.

Papoon, 61, is the contender for the nation's top seat from the Natural Insane Party (NIP), a party which opens to public inquiries with a sign that reads, "Here and now: what is your planet?" The candidate is primarily seeking humanized votes but will heartily welcome check marks and X's from lower animals, plants and interplanetary aliens as well.

Papoon's Campaign slogans "One Organism, One Vote" and "One Man, One Channel" are strongly based on the NIP motto, "Not Insane," a claim, according to the NIP, boasted by no other candidate except Papoon. In conjunction with this creed the party authorizes anyone to speak for Papoon or set in his name, as long as they are "Not Insane."

Papoon, of course, won the presidential race of 1973, but was ejected from the victorious position by, according to the NIP, "the blatant predjudices of the Electoral College" which "allowed an unlearned (Richard M. Nixon) into the White House instantaneously."

The NIP further charged the Electoral College with refusal to admit "women, Jews, Blacks, Indians and Chicanos" throughout its almost 900 years of accreditation.

The allegation included a claim that Rutherford B. Hayes was favored over Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, because Tilden (who, like Papoon, won the popular vote) gained the College's disapproval by being clean-shaven instead of wearing a then-in-fashion beard.

The NIP, which was founded in 1971 in Hollywood, California, boasted Papoon received "more adult human vote" in 1973 "then any member of the Kressenokratdaller Administration" currently in White House residence.

Flying high the banner, "Papoon for President," Papoon's Campaign "is kicked off in 1975 by establishing small Cocon movements. Papoon Cocon function just like any other candidate's campaign office: it bides local media for coverage; raises funds for advertising and whatnot; organizes guerrilla theatre, radio, television, etc. In short; and, most importantly, has lots of fun.

The majority of Cocons are thus far located in New York state and California, due to these regions' large populations. At least one, however, exists in every state except Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana.

Papoon's Cocons are planning many gala festivities during the country's birthday, emphasizing that fun can be had without falling into the obnoxious "BUY-CENTRAL traps."

The NIP is even attempting to change the national emblem from the bald eagle, a "bird with wings," to a "peaceful" beaver as an added celebration of the Bicentennial. Thus, the NIP's symbol: "Art," an American beaver.

Each Cocon bears a distinctive title and number. Some typical ones from around the country are "The More Sugar Foundation" Cocon No. 81, chaired by Crazy Eddie, "Noisikita Systems" Cocon No. 88, led by Louis the Vegetable, and "Pooft's Farm" Cocon No. 14, headed by Red Wolf and Ma. Poly students Al Andersen, A. Lindsay and Den Opperman.

They are headquartered on Lots 1 and 2, Madoceda Rd., office Suite 3.

Since all Cocons are spoken by any member of the biosphere, leaders of individual Cocons are called chaircreatures in accordance with trendy equality measures of the above. Beckner is the California chaircreature, making him, in turn, a three-creature cooney. "Pooft doesn't need me," Beckner commented as he lounged comfortably on his headquarter's sofa watching an ancient star Trsk episode, "but the vice-presidential primary will happen sometime in Spring quarter, and the national convention won't be until summer or fall."

With Ford battling Reagan, and Carter touting votes at Udall and Johnson all over the mid-west and eastern parts of the country, Papoon finished in total primary in San Luis in February with a landslide victory over KCPA radio's NIP-supported Night Flyer.

Grabbing 97 per cent of the vote, Papoon forced the Flyer to concede his victory. The air wave personally pledged to support his former opponent in the future, although sources say such a claim may be reliable.

The entire extravaganza was broadcast over KCPA's airwaves Feb. 11. Other broadcasts of Papoon activities can be heard on the university station's Thursday evening "Radio Bizarre." Opperman claimed Mustang Daily in an on-air interview concerning threats made at the broadcast in the vein of sabotage.

"There's been talk of malicious threats directed at the Cocon broadcasts," he said, adding that such controversy surrounded the matter. "We've heard of something called 'Operation Coroner,' but we don't know what it means."

Opperman said that the strange antagonists have left taped communications in the radio station's studio messages which relate vague details with peculiar noises in the background.

"We can't be sure whether these tapes are associated with the Night Flyer or not," the leader Hooker Police officer affirmed, "we just don't know at this point."

Opperman offered that the mysterious opponents sometimes refer to themselves on the tapes as the "White Punke from Wilson." Whether any scandal arises, though, Papoon's Campoon, '76 continues to sweep across the nation through victorious primaries wherever Cocons are found.

It's all great fun for the many Campooners to be involved in a winning American. And the most fun will probably be had by Papoon himself, a man mysterious in an attempt to return to the White House as he was Louis the Vegetable's Cocon No. 62 and as well known media star Richard Nixon.

Papoon never appears at a primary and wears a paper bag over his head wherever he goes in the guise of the above"choice for the American vote," but he will never kiss your baby. Watch out when he's the White House becomes the new Cocon in a few years offered by the "Not Insane" man might just be one way to go insane.

by STARR SHEPARD

Daily Staff Writer

"Not Insane, not Insane, not responsible, not to blame!!"
Northridge Drops Poly

by DENNIS HALLADAY

The Cal Poly volleyball team ended its first CCVC season in first place, while its baseballers won their first home game in the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships.

Wednesday, March 11, 1979

Women's Softball

Tryouts

The Mustangs lost their first game of the season against Pomona, 18-1 and 18-11, and took solid hold on their CCVC title. The Mustangs also played well, allowing only five hits, and were up to par.

Poly Baseballers

Lose Two, Win One

by DAVID RITZ

Cal Poly baseballers lost two games against Pomona on Friday and Saturday, but won one game on Sunday in a three game series against San Diego State.

Northridge Drops Poly

For First CCVC Loss

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