Women: the image changes

It's been a long time since the 1957 edition of the Cal Poly yearbook featured a picture of that year's Poly Royal queen touring the ornamental horticulture greenhouse with the caption: "Poly Royal queen Mary Medford, displaying Typically feminine interest in flowers and growing things, enjoys a tour of the greenhouse.

Twenty-five years later, women at Cal Poly not only enjoy the greenhouse, but they grow the plants, program the computers, draft the plans and develop the skills that will one day provide them with a successful and productive career.

Women at Cal Poly are very career-oriented, mathematics Professor Adelaide T. Harmon-Elliott said recently. "No matter where I go, I see women wanting careers," said Harmon-Elliott, adding that she has seen a substantial increase in numbers of women in technical majors in recent years.

"I spend a lot of time informing women about moving up the corporate ladder," said Harmon-Elliott, who is the faculty advisor for Kappa Mu Epsilon, a mathematics honor fraternity.

"I try to get them (women) good jobs," said Harmon-Elliott, adding that she encourages women to join KME. She also keeps in touch with the salaries Poly women are being offered and has found businesses in general are interested in hiring women.

Role models

Today's career-oriented women are serving as role models for girls who are now able to see a pattern of success to shoot for, said Harmon-Elliott. Promoting role models is the goal of Women and Math (WAMI), an organization that visits high schools and presents to girls topics dealing with women pursuing college and a career, Harmon-Elliott said. Depicting women as happy and productive in careers outside the home will encourage young women to follow suit, she added.

The program is financed primarily by IBM, said Harmon-Elliott, adding that business and industry today are showing an interest in advancing the careers of women.

"It is difficult for a woman to have a career because she has to have two careers," said Harmon-Elliott. The duties of housewife and parent still fall mainly on the woman, although Harmon-Elliott said she is optimistic that career-oriented women can manage both "if they find the right marriage partner."

Please see page 8
verified by both sides."

The deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles and
Soviet agreement to halt "testing, production and fur­

The initiative contains the wording of the letter the
in the Falkland Islands by the 82-plus ship Royal Navy

"The in itiative would direct the governor to write the

ty  Council's mandatory resolution."

"We have been negotiating in good faith for six weeks, but there still has been no sign of
Argentine willingness to implement the U.N. Securi­

Nuclear initiative to be on ballot

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California voters in
November will be able to decide if the Reagan ad­

November. — —

The nuclear weapons freeze advisory initiative easily qualified for the ballot with a projected 547,914 valid signatures and a state election official said. Of 346,119 were needed to make the ballot.

The initiative would direct the governor to write the president to "identify the people's concern about the danger of nuclear war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union."

The initiative contains the wording of the letter the
governor would have to send calling for a joint U.S.-

Soviet agreement to halt "testing, production and fur­

begin in

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the Reagan administra­


 begging to start new nuclear weapons research and development programs in the way that can be checked and verified by both sides.

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BREZHENY REJECTS ARMS PROPOSAL

MOSCOW (AP) — President Leonid I. Brezhnev on
Tuesday proposed a freeze on modernization and deploy­
ment of strategic nuclear arms as soon as talks begin
with the United States, but he refused U.S. calls for im­
mediate cuts.

He said President Reagan's proposal for a timed reduction in arsenals was "unrealistic" and designed to "insure American superiority."

Brezhnev, however, called Reagan's offer to resume strategic arms talks a "step in the right direction" and said the Soviet Union was prepared to begin negotiations "without delay and without any strings attached."

As a basis for the negotiations, he proposed a freeze on the modernization and deployment of strategic weapons "as soon as talks begin."

He also said that no additional Soviet medium-range missiles will be deployed in areas from which they could hit West Germany or other Western European countries. In Washington, Reagan said Brezhnev's remarks ap­peared to show a willingness to hold talks.

"I think we'll be meeting," the president said. Asked if he saw hopeful signs in Brezhnev's speech, he said, "Yes, I think I agreed that we'd meet; we will."

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., at a
NATO meeting in Luxembourg, said some Soviet arms control proposals have "compatibility" with the U.S. approach.

"Nuclear freezes do not promote effective arms con­

control," Haig said. However, he said of Brezhnev's speech, "I'm in the extent they (the Soviets) are willing to get into negotiations as early as possible, it is positive.

IRS: Reagans owed $20,000

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President and Mrs. Reagan
had to pay more than $20,000 in back federal and state
taxes after the Internal Revenue Service disallowed
business losses for the Reagans' ranch on the central
California coast, the family's tax attorney said Tues­
day.

Lawyer Roy D. Miller said the back taxes and in­
terest were from 1978 and 1979 tax returns.

"The deductions related to the maintenance of the
ranch as a business, which had been allowed in the past.
But the government took the position that they should no longer be allowed," Miller told The Associated Press.

He added, the Reagans accepted the government
position, and they did not attempt to claim the deduc­
tions on their 1980 or 1981 returns. In fact, their 1981
return already has been audited and accepted as filed.

"The audit that disallowed the deductions began in 1980 while Reagan was running for the presidency."

Regan economy forecast bleak

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the Reagan administra­


experience can change your life

your opportunities as an Air Force navigator. The ex­
perience can change your life.

This is your opportunity to be a part of that future.

Talk to an Air Force recruiter. Find

And as this band develops, we will talk to the nav­i

The demand for navigators has never been greater,

And as this band develops, we will talk to the nav­i

More like this band will be required. Fabricate

The navigators who operate these systems are care­

fully selected and trained. They must be able to serve

as a supersensitive source and reach a potential adver­

sary. They must be able to oppose them on several

fronts to destroy a team and

And as this band develops, we will talk to the nav­i

The role of the navigator is a unique one. How­­

ever, a navigator has never been more

A navigator's job is not just to get there with the right equip­

ment but to change the battle plan once there.

A navigator has never been more

A navigator's job is not just to get there with the right equip­

ment but to change the battle plan once there.
Noted artist is exhibiting oils, watercolors at Poly

Artist David Kreitzar, whose oils and watercolors have graced national magazines, and who is represented in a number of both private and public collections, is exhibiting a number of paintings in the University Union Gallery through June 6.

A portfolio of Kreitzar’s work is published in the April 1982 issue of American Artist, and he has done covers for Atlantic and Aquarian Age magazines.

He possesses a bachelor’s degree in education from Concordia Teachers College, and a master’s in art from San Jose State University.

Among the public collections which own his work are the Hirshhorn Foundation in Washington D.C., Eureka College in Illinois, the News Corporation headquarters, Sinclair Paints, Lloyd’s Bank, and municipal museums in San Diego and Santa Barbara.

Kreitzar has exhibited in major shows in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, and North Carolina. He is listed in Who’s Who directories for the West, California, International Arts and Antiques, and American Art. He is the recipient of the San Francisco Art Director’s Club’s Gold Medal for a poster executed in 1970.

Gallery hours for this exhibit are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays, and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

His one-man show is presented by the Fine Arts Committee of the Program Board of the Associated Students Inc.

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Mommie Dearest claims bolstered by author's son

By Gail Pellerin

For many, books are just pages of words. But for others, they are pages that reveal the reality of their lives.

Author Christina Crawford is one such person. She has revealed her tormented childhood with her adoptive mother, Joan Crawford, in her bestseller, Mommie Dearest.

Crawford wrote to Dave Koontz, Christina's stepson and a sophomore at Cal Poly, "Chirstina has revealed her life in the writing of her book. It was a sad thing to see go through," he added. "I believe in the controversy over the accuracy of the book, he said, "From my own experience, everything in that book is true, because there's no way a person could make up a story like that." Koontz had known Joan, although he had developed a few impressions of the woman.

In 1976 when his father and Christina were married, the boy who got caught up in the juvenile system, was afraid and didn't know where to turn, Koontz said.

After Christina had a near fatal disease. She was a sick woman," he said, "She just didn't care," he added, noting that Christina would shower for Mother's Day and would get no response in return.

"She was like (Christina) didn't exist," Koontz said.

But Christina was never bitter toward her mother and she really loved her, Koontz said. "She knew what had happened to Joan Crawford was cancerous disease. She was a sick woman," he said, referring to his reported alcoholism and emotional instability.

"I think Joan was very much an 'evil woman.' She was an eerie-looking lady," he said.

Even though Joan Crawford is not talked about much in the Koontz' home, the family does keep photographs of her tucked away in drawers, and a bronze bust of her sits in their office. "I tucked as ray in drawers, and a bronze bust of her sits in their office. The family does keep photographs of her and emotional instability." He has revealed a few impressions of his mother, "I have a few impressions of her life. She was a sick woman," he said, "She just didn't care," he added, noting that Christina would shower for Mother's Day and would get no response in return. "She was like (Christina) didn't exist," Koontz said.

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Gender not a hindrance to career-oriented women

Over the past decade, women have accounted for 46 percent of the total increase in enrollment at Cal Poly, according to the Division of Institutional Research. The proportion of women students over this period has increased from 28.6 percent in 1971 to 43.1 percent in fall 1981.

While women are gaining visibility in many areas, in some domains they are still novices.

"Being a woman doesn't have to be an issue," said ASI President-Elect Sandy Clary recently. "I think if you don't make it an issue, it won't be.

Clary said she was impressed during her campaign with the open-mindedness of both sexes at Poly. "I'm proud to be a woman," said Clary, "but I'm not here as a woman."

Women in prominent positions have to work harder than men to gain credibility, Clary said. More time must be spent making initial contacts with people, as talking with them and answering their questions will clear up any reservations they may have about a woman's competence, she said.

Clary concedes that her gender has been a factor in her political career to the extent that "almost inevitably, I've always run against a man." People are not surprised to see her competing with men for office, Clary said, but "occasionally, they are surprised when I win."

Lacking confidence

While on the campaign trail, Clary encountered a few individuals, both male and female, who lacked confidence in her ability to lead a man. However, "once they met me," Clary recalls, "the separation of gender disappeared."

As Clary assumes her role in the California State Students Association, she will work alongside many other women who hold offices in the organization. "Women have a significant role in the CSUSA," said Clary, adding that many are "tough women."
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Egypt:
Kindness lives in poverty’s shadow
Story and photo by Tom Rinsing

As the train slowly pulled into Ramses station, dozens of black-robed Egyptians began running alongside, swarming through the car doors. Though weighed down with my backpack somehow I managed to squeeze through the cursing mob at one of the doors. Chaos in the train car.

Looks like Allah had decided to be good to me. I found a cramped seat between three Egyptians wearing western clothes. The 17-hour ride to Luxor wouldn’t be spent on the floor after all.

How lucky that turned out to be. Only an hour after the train began its journey to Luxor, the bathroom at the end of the car consisting of a hole in the floor started overflowing — out the door and into our car.

All this for a second-class train ticket. I hated to think of what third class was like.

This had been one of the many memorable experiences, albeit not the most enjoyed, of my one-month experience in Egypt last winter. Land of the Pharaohs. And one of the most inefficient, unfriendly, filthiest countries I’ve ever visited.

The Tel Aviv-to-Cairo bus ride had its poignant moments. There were two, middle-aged couple sitting serenely in the two seats in front of me — one was Israeli, the other Egyptian. Nine and a half years ago, their husbands could have been shooting each other in the Yom Kippur War. Now there is peace. Former enemies have become tourists.

As a Kibbutzanger, I arrived April 25th with the return of the final batch of the Sinai. I met some Arab youngsters milling about the bus on the Egyptian side of the border.

I showed the boys how to shoot football caps with a click of the fingers, Cyal Poly style. They were delighted.

“Where do you live?” I asked one of them.

“Halls,” the boy answered moonfully.

“Halls?” I asked, turning towards Israel. What could I say to this young Palestinian refugee? Embarrassed, I shrugged, smiled and got on the bus.

We arrived in Cairo’s Tahrir Square late at night. What a contrast to immaculate Tel Aviv. Broken-down Plate and Daemama whitened past, some of them with lights off, incessantly keeping their horses. It was a racket that would nearly drive me crazy for the next three weeks.

It wasn’t five minutes later that I was hit with the first wave of Egyptian hospitality.

I was walking down Talaat Harb Street, searching for a cheap 50-cents-a-night hostel to eatch in.

“Hello!” smiled a 35-year-old Egyptian.

What does this guy want, I thought. Congeniality like that is rare in western industrialised countries. After chatting a few minutes, he told me where the best, one-dollar-eight-hostels were and why.

As I continued walking, other smiling Egyptians approached me with the same “hallo” and advice. The fourth one, Tarek Mohammed, guided me to the Oxford Guest House, where I left the pack.

Tarek then treated me to an Arab dinner at a place down the street. I was introduced to some of his friends there, who were Cairo University students.

They peppered me with questions.

“Where are you from in America?...How can I get into America?...What does a person with a commerce degree make in America?”

The next day was not so cheery. I was to join up with my two friends, Eammon, from London, and Bruce, from Aireem, both of whom I met on the kiblota in Israel, at the U.S. embassy.

When I got there, they were both slumped on a bench in the lobby, desperately ill.

“It was the food, Tom,” muttered Eammon, with a pleased expression.

“You’ll be sick too.”

Grim thoughts about Tarek’s dinner the night before entered my mind. My stomach began to churn. Was I going to be the next victim of the “Pharaoh’s revenge”?

By some miracle, I did not get sick once during the rest of my stay in Egypt. Perhaps it was because I avoided the ten-cent-a-bowl macaroni bars that were everywhere in Cairo (which Bruce and Eammon had lived on in their first few days in the city).

Though Eammon got better, Bruce was getting sicker by the day. We finally took him to the Anglo-American hospital, where he received an instantaneous antibiotic treatment. He recovered immediately, much to our relief.

We thought this was the end of our troubles. The original plan was to spend four days in Cairo, then go south to Luxor and to see the Valley of the Kings. But there was another problem — we were going broke.

The money Eammon had sent for from England was supposed to arrive the next day, but had not arrived. We were extremely ill.

We saw King Tut’s and countless other fabulous relics at the Egyptian Museum. There was the afternoon at the awe-inspiring pyramids not far from the city, where we got stuck. We couldn’t ride. One could almost get see-eek on one of those horseless carriages dotting the road. What a contrast to Cairo.

Instead of a noisy traffic jam, we were greeted by an old Arab who took us to the local youth hostel on his donkey cart.

The next few days we rented bicycles, rode carriages (they were everywhere), and hiked around soot of Luxor’s wonders; the Valley of the Kings, where the Pharaohs were buried; Karnak Temple; Luxor Temple; and Hatshepsut Temple.

Near Hatshepsut, we made a startling discovery. After hiking up to one of the nearby caves and climbing over the rock barrier at the entrance, we found a half-dozen decaying mummies strewn about. Sure hope there wasn’t a curse on this tomb.

Later we took the train to Aswan, where the great dam is built. More relaxation and a boat ride on the Nile.

Then it was all over. Bruce and Eammon went on to Sudan and Kenya, and I headed back to Cairo for my flight to Europe and return to the United States.

There, pyramids and the kindred named Ahmed Harari approached us, somewhat desperately.

He said he was a local school teacher and explained that some young New Zealanders, who had agreed to come to the school’s “foreign visitors day,” had left town. Would we take their place?

Three days later, we were picked up in the early morning by Ahmed and taken to the school, which consisted of a boys section and a girls section, ages six-to-eighteen.

We made introductory speeches before each group, which Ahmed translated into Arabic, then followed a visit to several of the girls classrooms. Proudled by Ahmed, we asked the girls questions about their Modern culture, such as why some of them were veiled and others were not.

With the end of each classroom visit came the most astounding reaction — we were mobbed for autographs! It was as if the Osmond brothers had arrived.

The money from England finally arrived and we made that stinking train ride down to Luxor. What a contrast to Cairo.

A mosque in Cairo, with a large painting of the late Anwar Sadat to the right. Sadat’s image is still seen frequently throughout Egypt.
Larry Rathbun: settling in as associate ag dean

BY STEPHANIE WIMN
Staff Writer

In an airy office on the second floor of the agriculture buildings, Dr. Larry Rathbun explained the reasons for his newly-appointed position as one of the associate deans for the School of Agriculture and Natural Management.

"I think both the experience I have had with education politics up in Sacramento and the experience I have had in advising for the international education programs here at Cal Poly are what helped me to land the position," said Rathbun.

Rathbun, who will continue to teach part-time in the Agriculture Department, said he will actually be sharing the associate dean position with Dr. West, who will also be teaching part-time.

West, he explained, will continue to oversee and handle student academic affairs, while Rathbun will look after fiscal matters, oversee faculty and personnel, manage relations with high schools and community colleges in California and advise international education activities.

Rathbun, who has taught agriculture at Cal Poly since 1970, said he will be taking over some of the responsibilities that traditionally went to the dean.

"Part of my new position will involve looking over the fiscal matters of our ten departments to see if we might improve efficiency in any way," said the new associate dean.

For example, Rathbun explained, they might look into ways of combining functions in the department, like the ordering of supplies and materials to make sure they are getting the greatest volume discount.

"We want to make sure we are treating everyone fairly," said Rathbun.

Rathbun, who was one of the finalists for the dean's position last year left open by Dr. Howard Brown, said he has been adviser to more than 100 foreign students attending Cal Poly and five or six education programs.

By organizing invasive education programs to upgrade agriculture technology in various countries, the agriculture department raised approximately $600,000 a year, he said.

"We create all of our outside funding," said Rathbun, who added that some of the funding will go toward improving lab facilities at Cal Poly.

Rathbun graduated from Cal Poly in 1964, majoring in poultry, and said one of the most dramatic changes he has seen at Cal Poly has been the increase in student population.

"I feel something must be done to combat this problem which has added to archaic and overcrowded situations at lab facilities on campus," he said.

Rathbun said some of the countries the department has contracted its educational expertise to include Mexico and Pakistan.

Rathbun, who taught high school agriculture in Los Banos and Rio Vista before coming to Cal Poly to teach, said he attained his master's degree from Cal Poly in 1967 and his doctorate from Ohio State in 1974.

Second annual speech event scheduled for this Saturday

Students looking to improve their public speaking skills and meet some new people are invited to attend the second annual Mustang Daily speech event.

This year's tournament will be held Saturday, May 22 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is geared toward all Cal Poly students, whether or not they are speech majors. "The four events open for new people are invited to attend the second annual Mustang Daily speech event."

Winners and others, the forensics-debate team will be offering personal tutoring today through Friday.

Applications and more information on the festival can be picked up either at the forensics squad room (English 318) or at the speech department office.

Robin Lewis named 1982-83 Mustang Daily editor in chief

Junior journalism major Robin Lewis has been selected as 1982-83 editor of the Mustang Daily, the Publisher's Board announced last week. The 21-year-old Lewis comes from Martinez, Ca. He is currently Mustang Daily managing editor and was outdoor editor during fall and winter quarters this year.

Lewis will be the first editor of the paper as a five-day-a-week publication. He said his top priorities will be to make Mustang Daily more responsive to student interests and needs. Lewis succeeds senior journalist Tom Johnson as editor of the paper. The 22-year-old Johnson will serve as editor of the Summer Mustang.

Robin Lewis

Volunteer

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(expires May 26, 1982)
Women’s involvement in traditionally male-dominated careers, such as aeronautical engineering, has risen sharply in the last decade.

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“My, mother always stayed at home,” said LaKeAnn Meyer, but her full-time school and part-time work schedule “will hopefully make them (her children) more responsible and independent.”

Working mother

Meyer, 32, is an interior design major. Her round-the-clock schedule means that her two boys, age 9 and 11, fix their own hus­ ches for school and make their own breakfast at least two times a week, she said.

Meyer said having a working mother may foster an attitude in her sons that women are people and not just there to take care of you.

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“Maybe it’s an innate thing,” she said, “I show that I feel guilty and Steve doesn’t.”

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Javelin throwing no passing fancy for Barnes

BY ANDY BERGER

The Cal Poly women’s track media guide doesn’t lie. Gazing its cover is a picture of two-time Olympic javelin thrower Karin Smith. Quickly turning to page 24, you find Smith’s smiling face and 37 lines of information at your fingertips.

But if you happen to mistakenly open the guide to page 19, you see a blurry photo of Danielle Barnes and 17 lines of her junior college basketball accomplishments.

Now, is this any way to treat the second-best javelin thrower in the NCAA Division II nation?

Pisella Barnes is easily the No. 2 spear-thrower in Div. II, behind you-know-who, and is one of the top eight in the country at any level of collegiate competition. But because she hasn’t made the Olympic team yet, her performances are overshadowed by the remarkable accomplishments of Smith.

But Barnes, who earlier this season rose to No. 18 on the all-time United States list with a flip of 174-7, takes her role as second-fiddle in stride. She’s not tent to playing the part of the understudy for now, waiting patiently for her time to come on center stage.

Part, although the idea of having one of the world’s finest javelin throwers always around might cause some folks fally, it doesn’t bother Barnes a bit. You might even say she thrives on it.

“I think it helps me have an advantage over everyone else, because when it comes to techniques and fundamentals I have the best of the best teachers or coaches around,” said Barnes.

And with the help of Smith and Mustangs head coach Lance Harter, Barnes has improved some 21 feet in less than a year. The 21-year-old native of exotic Fresno had a best of 153-6 last season at Fresno City College, and tossed a 174-7 the third week of this year at Bakerfield. Must be something about the San Joaquin Valley, Barnes says.

“Karin saw some things that coach doesn’t see, and coach picks up some things that Karin misses,” said Barnes, an American javelin thrower and student. “If I’m doing something incorrectly, either one can tell me in different words so I can do it right.”

She’s a let-right in her short javelin life. Because the CIF doesn’t sponsor javelin throwing in high school sports, Barnes didn’t put on a track uniform until her first year at FCC. She is in, as Harter affectionately puts it, the “ineoptype stage” of spearthrowing, competing in only her third year of the sport.

But Barnes is a quick learner. After the FCC coach spotted her throwing a soft javelin and convinced her to try the javelin, she finished third in the state her freshman year and was runner-up in 1981. And she’s not through yet.

“She was handled well in junior college, and she has good basic mechanics. She has tremendous tenacity and desire to become better. She definitely has a very bright future,” said Harter.

Coming out of FCC, Barnes was recruited by Poly, Sacramento State, and Cal State Hayward. But the decision of where to go was like having to choose between Malibu and Bakersfield. Said Barnes, “Living in Sacramento is just like living in Fresno. An arm pit’s arm pit.”

The fact that Poly had an outstanding array of talent, a qualified coaching staff, and the leading American javelin thrower also helped. And since both Barnes and Smith complement each other very well, the Poly javelin crew should have a field day at the Div. II national championships next weekend in majestic Sacramento.

“Karin has taught me to be able to compete with myself, to do better. I know that in workouts and drills and exercises, I can’t beat her but I can beat myself. Sometimes we have games where she doesn’t feel her best mark and I do. She’s the real deal, but it’s never for beating each other.”

“Barnes might not be able to train with someone like that. Karin’s gone all the time. I’m kinda jealous, we get along really well.”

Barnes breaks out of a mild slump Sunday at the UCLA-Pepsi Invitational in Westwood. She recorded her lifetime best 10 weeks ago, and threw 166-1 in the Martin Luther King Games April 3. But in the last six weeks, Barnes hasn’t been able to uncork the long one she’s been waiting for. However, Sunday she took fifth with a best of 166-6, and had another throw over 165, two days after winning the conference championships with a 166-9 flip. Smith won the event by 12 feet.

“Right now it’s kinda incomprehensible,” said Barnes, “I know I have the talent, but I don’t know how good I can be.”

She will have ample opportunity to find out how good she can be in the next few weeks. She is set for the Div. II national meet, the Div. IV, national meet in Provo, Utah, and the American Athletic Conference national championships in Knoxville, Tennessee, are scheduled for late May and early June. Three meets will determine what Barnes and Smith will compete against America’s finest.

But for Danielle Barnes, being second-best on the team isn’t too bad a position to be in. For now.
Darkening tunnels

It’s a little like waiting for the light at the end of a tunnel to grow larger — hoping the Supreme Court will take a chance and specifically define its opinion in a governmental information case. It doesn’t happen.

The Court ruled Monday that the State Department does not have to make public information on individuals if that information would in any way invade the privacy of the person involved.

The Washington Post was looking for information on whether or not Irahim Yazdi and Ali Behzadina were U.S. citizens and held valid passports. The Post sought the information in 1979 during the Iranian hostage crisis when both Yazdi and Behzadina were members of Iran’s revolutionary government.

The State Department refused, citing Exemption 6 of the Freedom of Information Act. The exemption makes disclosure of “personnel and medical files and similar files” unrequired if that disclosure would constitute “a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” The department claimed the files were such an invasion and might subject the public to physical harm.

Aside from the State Department’s ludicrousness in refusing to acknowledge two of its country’s citizens, its decision points up a major problem with Exemption 6. Just what are “similar files?”

The Post sought a definition of this clause from the Court in the case. What it received was a fantastically vague generalization of what “similar files” are. The Court’s opinion, authored by Justice William H. Rehnquist, applied the generalization of what “similar files” are. The Court’s opinion section,

“...warranted invasion of privacy. "The department claimed the disclosure of "personnel and medical files and similar files" would in any way invade the privacy of the person involved...”

The Supreme Court failed to tighten the definition of the clause, instead left it more general in nature than before. It still allows those with the information to decide what we, the public, need to know (that’s “need to know,” a magnificently relative term that changes in definition every four to eight years).

The Court’s present definition of “similar files” does not guarantee an objective government decision in the release of materials to the public. It should have specifically defined those materials covered by the term, “similar files.” Instead, we are still stuck in the tunnel, left debating the need for such a definition, not its content.

Letters

A beneficial non-endorsement policy

Editor:

Original thinking would not hurt if applied to the issue raised: “Should newspapers, in general, and the Mustang Daily, in particular, endorse political candidates, even if it is in the Opinion section?” Obviously, Cathy Donaldson did not understand that the argument here is not legal rights but ethical responsibility. Of course the newspapers have the right under the law to endorse, if they choose. May I explain though why I see such a policy of endorsement ethically incorrect?

From a general perspective I offer three points:

1. In recommending a candidate, the press is alluding to more insight, accuracy and knowledge than true. It makes its opinion appear representative of a larger majority than is accurate.

2. In reality, the endorsement from the press is only based on the opinion of a select group of individuals using a powerful tool to promote their own interests and prejudices. Even if presented as an opinion, they are appealing to the authority of the newspaper itself, the name under which they write. I would like to see these individual’s opinions come forth and state their opinions just like the rest of the public by using their own names, without the label of a newspaper and the impact of influence attached to it.

3. But, in stating an opinion on a candidate or issue in an unsigned editorial, the newspaper’s recommendation should differ from other partisan opinion in that the newspaper has considerably more resources from which to gather objective information as basis for their objective opinion. In failing to use the position and skills of their profession to this aim, what is the difference between a newspaper’s endorsement and any other individual’s opinion?

In conclusion, in making a political recommendation a newspaper is alluding to an assumed superior knowledge of objective information and criteria for making an essentially subjective judgment. For these reasons I consider such practice ethically incorrect.

But if the Mustang Daily does not view ethical grounds as compelling enough to command a change, they might take into consideration the effect on the candidates themselves.

The Mustang Daily staff defeats its purpose by endorsing a candidate. I’ve talked to numerous people while campaigns, and many individuals used the newspaper’s endorsement as one of the reasons to vote against Chris Hartley. Because of its poor standing with the student body, the Mustang Daily does not recommend whom to elect, but whom not to elect. Thus, it becomes detrimental to the candidate, rather than beneficial. I see a non-endorsement policy giving future candidates a future chance.

Alida Brandi