Bad check writing is common in SLO

Problem peaks around X-mas, summer breaks

By William Douglass

Since the District Attorney's Office began a program in January 1989 to prosecute bad check writers within the county, over $650,000 has been recovered.

Approximately $2 million worth of bad checks are estimated to have been passed since the program was initiated.

Virginia Mothes, an administrator of the Bad Check Program, said passing checks on accounts with insufficient funds is one of the most widely committed crimes in San Luis Obispo, especially among students.

Mothes said people who are otherwise law abiding citizens do not realize they are breaking potential laws when they bounce a check.

On the same day a check is written there must be enough money in the account to cover it. Otherwise the check writer has broken a misdemeanor section of the California Penal Code, punishable by jail in some cases.

Even if someone writes a check and makes a deposit to cover it in a day or two, he is breaking the law," Mothes said. "But as long as the check does not bounce no action is usually taken against the check-writer."

Anthony Denogean, assistant manager at Domino's Pizza on Foothill Boulevard, said the store received an average of one bad check per day. "We have a very big problem with checks," he said.

"Most of the problem is students," said Denogean. "The biggest time of the year for bad checks is right before Christmas vacation and before school ends for the summer."

Denogean said when some students leave San Luis Obispo they leave bad checks behind them. "They do it on purpose because they know they are moving and can get away with it."

Mothes said students cannot because the California Penal Code, punishable by jail in some cases.

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Panetta fears crisis in Gulf becoming 'dangerous game'

By Mary Frederisy

Rep. Leon Panetta (D-Monterey) is afraid the trouble in the Middle East is becoming a game.

He said every time the United States increases troops in the Middle East, Iraq matches the buildup.

"It looks like a dangerous game of 'Can You Top This?" he said.

Panetta held a news conference in San Luis Obispo Monday, which mainly focused on his views of the Middle Eastern conflict.

Panetta said sanctions already in place need more time to work.

"The sanctions have just had a few months," he said. "We have implemented a pretty effective embargo on their oil. What works is to go to their economic heart, and that takes time."

He also said dealing with Iraq should not be the United States' responsibility alone.

"There is no reason other countries can't contribute," he said. "They have to, we can't do this on our own. Resources are being stretched to the breaking point right now."

Panetta said he sees a four-step system to dealing with the crisis.

He said the first step is making sure all forces are under a United Nations flag. The second is continuing to enforce sanctions.

Poly student may join military forces stationed in Gulf

By Matt Calegari

As finals rapidly approach, most students are dreaming of the smell of turkey and stuffing. Christmas, too, is right around the corner. Many of us will hit the slopes and the malls and get our fill of eggnog. Cal Poly sophomore Thomas Patchell has these thoughts too. But this season the holidays will be extra special for Tom. As a corporal in the Marine Reserve, Tom is "on call" and will likely be shipped out to Saudi Arabia after the new year.

Tom is an English major who enjoys writing fiction. "I've got a brain job," he said. "I work in a high-stress environment."

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See PANETTA, page 8

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See PANETTA, page 8

Have a happy Thanksgiving.

Take the plunge...

Poly women's team places first, men take third at Bakersfield swim meet.

Page 5

Today's weather...

Chance of morning showers. Sunny in the afternoon.

High: 64
Low: 46
n.w. winds 10-20 mph
4 ft. seas, 8 ft. n.w. swells
The pound helps the community

This is an open letter to the citizens of Los Angeles County from the employees of the Department of Animal Regulation.

Members of our staff are often mistaken and impolitely referred to as "Dog Catcher" or "those heartless people who work for the local pound," or rather, some of the above. Our positions involve nothing but a spectrum of animal-related details that are neither trivial, nor unnoticed. We hear and read of your complaints, disagreements and accusations on a daily basis with rarely an acknowledgement of our service to you — the county citizens and taxpayer.

To those of you who accuse our department of negligence, apathy, and inhumanity you are not only part of our jobs but a part of our lives. We impound and destroy hundreds of animals yearly, not because they are heartless, but because you, the citizens, choose to allow an unknown problem to exist. We do not let your pets run at large. We do not allow your pets to become a neighborhood nuisance. We do not continually contribute to the pet overpopulation problem. We do not load our litters of infants into our vehicles. We do not remedy these issues because we are the best interest of both the public, and as well, the animals.

To those of you who accuse our department of inhumanity and the list goes on — please consider the following next time you have contact with a member of our department. When your child is bitten, it is Animal Regulation who quarantined the animal that may be of the need for the painful rabies vaccination treatments.

When an aggressive animal is at large, it is Animal Regulation who responds at the risk of injury in order to protect your life and limb.

When free running dogs and cats are grotesque fatalities on the road, it is Animal Regulation who removes them with our tears rather than those of local children.

When you have lost sleep due to the neighbor's barking dog, it is Animal Regulation who makes contact with the owner and reviews the abusive gestures and language.

And it is Animal Regulation who may be called out of bed on that cold night at 3 a.m. to rush an injured animal to a veterinarian for treatment.

It is us, employees of the Department of Animal Regulation, who must watch the fear in the eyes of the "stray," listen to the cries of the injured and impounded, suffer silence over the sheer waste of "kitten season," and take abuse by the often ignorant public.

We wish to challenge the citizens of this county to cast aside our preconceived notions of Animal Regulation (The Pound) and take steps to educate yourselves, your friends and your county on our regulations.

We invite all citizens to visit our shelter, talk to our volunteers, ask about our policies and procedures, or ride along with one of our officers.

Please do not cite condescendingly, condemn us, or answer our phones, cleaned and cared for our animals, and answer out back to see first hand what it is like to walk a mile in our shoes and alongside many paws.
Iraq vows to double troop forces in Kuwait

Iraq said Monday it will pour 250,000 more troops into Kuwait, more than doubling its military strength in the occupied emirate and giving Iraq a superiority that "others cannot match."

The Iraqi News Agency announced the troop buildup 11 days after President Bush said the United States would send an additional 200,000 soldiers to the gulf, bringing the American force to about 430,000.

Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Rick Ochorn said in Washington that the department would have no comment on the Iraqi troop buildup.

Town evacuates after WWII bomb discovery

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Construction workers in a town northwest of Prague found an unexploded American bomb from World War II on Monday, forcing authorities to evacuate residential areas, the CTK news agency said.

The 1,000-pound bomb was found in soil brought to a construction site from the outskirts of the town of Most, about 50 miles northwest of Prague. Some people living near the construction site had to be temporarily evacuated, the report said.

Experts placed the bomb on a truck loaded with sand and transported it to a military site near the construction site.

U.S. export subsidies remain under farm bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal program to subsidize U.S. agricultural exports will be continued under the 1990 farm bill, and the Agriculture Department says it will be used aggressively to meet foreign competition.

But Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter says that ideally all countries ought to do away with export subsidies. That was the original idea going into negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

For some time, however, the United States has pushed for a 90 percent reduction in export subsidies over 10 years.

Commission seeks to label dangerous toys

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Consumer Products Safety Commission issued its yearly holiday warning against dangerous toys Monday and said it may adopt regulations requiring labeling of playthings with small parts that little children could choke on.

At its annual toy safety news conference, the commission cautioned shoppers to beware of balloons, small balls and small parts when buying gifts for the very young.

"Think big in buying toys for children under 3," Jacqueline Jones-Smith, chairman of the commission, said.

The commission said it received reports of 33 deaths related to toys between January 1989 and September 1990.

Canines force postal service to drop routes

Bakersfield, Calif. (AP) — Dogs have won a small battle in their age-old war with letter carriers.

So many dogs have caused so much trouble in a small section of Bakersfield called Olddale that the U.S. Postal Service soon won't deliver mail door-to-door there any more.

Instead, about 250 residents of a square-mile neighborhood will get their mail from boxes placed in a central location.

That change was ordered because postal personnel on three routes in Olddale have had to put up with three attacks and one dog bite that required hospitalization during the past six weeks, said a Postal Service spokesman.

State gas tax raises $58 million in August

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California's voter-approved nickel-a-gallon fuel tax increase raised $58 million for the state during its first month, tax officials said Monday.

The tax, approved last June as Proposition 111, went into effect on Aug. 1. During the month of August consumers purchased nearly 1.17 billion gallons of fuel.

The figures were reported by the state tax monitors and distributes tax revenues.

The new tax increase totals a nickel per gallon during the remainder of 1990, then rise a penny every Jan. 1 through 1994.

Children may be hazardous to your health

By Dick Saalfeld

The subtle hints being dropped by the local minority in our society are not lost on me. As a single white person with an education, I know that my duty to Truth, Justice and the American Way is to go out and promote until my gonads fall off.

Having kids is the "in" thing for us baby-boomers to do. Movies and television shows have messages telling us to hurry up and start producing future Republicans, or the United States will swivel right down the porcelain path to pediatrics and Commachism. This is a far cry from a time not so long ago when we were told that planet Earth was fostering and rotting as a result of the teeming hordes of humanity, and that we would all sink back into the primordial soup from whence we came if we didn't start using those little See HUMOR, page 6
Come in and register to win a pair of DuraSoft 3 colored contact lenses or compliments.

Offer expires 11/27/90

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Offer expires 11/27/90

Tomorrow, the Mustangs travel to Cal State Bakersfield to meet their Pac-10 rival, the Roadrunners. Bakersfield's team includes four nationally-ranked wrestlers.

"It could be a close match. When and how big we win (in the separate weight divisions) will determine the outcome of this meet," said Cowell, whose team is 2-1 overall.

The Mustangs' first home meet will be against the Ohio State Wildcats on Nov. 27 in Mustang Gym.
Swimmers make good times in Bakersfield

By Tim Chadwick

The Cal Poly men's and women's swimming teams traveled to Cal State Bakersfield Saturday for the Roadrunner relays and came home with more than they expected.

Highlighting the meet for the women was Carolyn Bentley, who led off the 3x100 breaststroke relay in 1:07.75, making the first NCAA Division II national qualifying time for the team.

Head coach Rich Firman said Bentley is one of only about five swimmers in the nation who already has qualified for nationals.

The women went on to win the meet, defeating host Cal State Bakersfield, Cal State Los Angeles and Bakersfield College.

Another highlight of the meet for the Mustangs was the 3x100-yard backstroke relay.

In this race, Stephanie Keller, Jendi Phillips and Shannon Snow blasted through the water to set a meet record.

Keller's leg of 1:02,20 was less than a second off national qualifying times.

The men's team opened the meet with the 4x100 freestyle relay team of Jeremy Brannon, Dave Padgett, P.J. Madigan and Scott Swoboda, who shaved more than a second off last week's time.

Overall, the team finished third in the meet, behind five-time national champion Cal State Bakersfield and UC Davis, which the Mustangs will face at home January 21 in what should be a close meet.

Firman summed up the Mustang performances with a bit of praise.

"Despite the past three weeks of hard training, the team is well ahead of where it was last season," he said.

FACTS ABOUT YOUR PEERS

FACT: Over 55 California students managed their own business last summer.

FACT: Their average earnings for the summer of 1990 were $10,700.

FACT: They continued to prove a decade long track record in business.

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The Mustang Daily Ad Reps!

See our form in this issue.

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Mustang Daily Tuesday, November 20, 1990

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HUMOR

By David Holbrook

The trappings of society's designated roles, leading individuals to proffer rotten or venal acts of self-indulgence, was derided in two one-act plays by Eugene Ionesco by the Cal Poly theatre and dance department. "The Lesson" and "The Bald Soprano" were presented last weekend in "Ionesco Tonight," the department's first 1990-91 production.

"The Lesson," the darker of the two plays, takes place in a professor's study, where he is tutoring an exuberant but mediocre pupil whose parents want her to seek the "total doctored.

"The Bald Soprano" uses the same absurd and surreal techniques as its predecessor, but takes a more humorous approach in its criticism of society's stubborn conventionalists.

Set in England, "The Bald Soprano" deals with two couples, the Smiths and the Martinis, who reside completely in suburban London.

The play begins with Mrs. Smith giving an encyclopedic telling of the family's dinner and all the gastronomical details it could warrant. The end of the play sees the same soliloquy repeated, this time by Mrs. Martin, emphasizing the bitter and common characteristics shared by these two stuffy couples.

The majority of the play examines the trite and innane conversations between the Smiths and the Martins, and the nature of the emotional jab at the sensibilities of themselves and society that, like the professor, rigidly adhere to refutable dogmas. The naive and confused pupil soon becomes the professor's victim, dying in a last effort to conceive a simulated distro.

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**SOCCER**

From page 4

gave a scoring leader for the Mustangs for more than three years, Coleman was pleased to see her back on the team.

"It's great to have her in there," Coleman said. "We only played her about 50 percent of the game."

The 1-0 victory avenge a season-opening loss to the Bruins at UCLA. Huggins thought that this time the team was better prepared.

"The first time we played them, I don't think a lot of people knew what playing UCLA was all about," she said. "We wanted revenge, and we were totally pumped up."

Defender Shanna Burroughs said that UCLA was good, but "three years, Coleman was pleased"

**IONESCO**

From page 6

fire to extinguish) thus upsetting the scenes. Whether the plays challenged the audience's own sensibilities remains uncertain, although they were indubitably entertaining.

**PATCHELL**

From page 1

"to extinguish" thus upsetting the etiquette of the dinner party. This malfeasance by the maid and the chief leaves the two couples ruffled and disoriented. A barrage of nonsense, disjointed exchanges is made between the two couples until they finally find solace through consensus, marching and chanting in unison, "it's not that way; it's over there!"

Both "The Lesson" and "The Bald Soprano" contain serious messages presented in an absurd creative mix.

"We played so good," Burroughs said that she is sad that the season is over, but this was quick to point out the dominating defensive play of Mustangs midfield play, which contributed to Mustang scoring chances. Coleman believes that his team has nothing but good things to look forward to but mourns the losses of seniors Jennifer Silva and Karol Fink to graduation. Their "will definitely be missed," Coleman said.

Burroughs said that she is sad that the season is over, but this victory was the way to go out. "This is a killer way to end," she said.

"I reckon Daddy's a better team," said that UCLA was good, but Coleman was pleased.
BAD CHECKS

From page 1: Escaped bad checks by moving away from San Luis Obispo, unless they escape bad checks by moving away from the state. The Bad Check Program tracks violators through their driver's licenses and prosecutes them.

The District Attorney's Office is currently in contact with a Cal Poly student who wrote several hundred dollars worth of bad checks before moving back home to Northern California. Mothes said the student's father is signing the Bad Check Program the money to cover the checks and the fines. But in some cases, a bad check writer will get away with it, Mothes said.

"One German girl who was going to Cuesta College wrote about $4,000 worth of bad checks before leaving the country," Mothes said.

She said once a violator has left the state, misdemeanors cannot be prosecuted.

The Bad Check Program has three steps to prosecute bad check-writers after a check is sent to the District Attorney. First the violator is sent a notice to pay the check's amount and a $25 fine. If that notice is ignored, the violator receives a notice to pay the debt and a $40 fine, and the violator is required to attend a class on the moral issue of bouncing checks. Mothes said the class is similar to traffic school for driving offenses.

Finally, if both notices are ignored, the violator is told if the check is not paid within 10 days an arrest warrant will be issued.

Cal Poly Foundation's Accounts Receivable Administrator Kim said his office would not use the Bad Check Program.

"We would look really bad if we used the D.A. to prosecute our customers," Kim said.

The Foundation, which is in charge of El Corral Bookstore and all campus restaurants, gets about three or four bad checks per day, Kim said. "First we call them and let them know they have bounced a check," Kim said. "They are usually really nice about it and come in and pay us back right away... it's usually just a mistake."

If the debt is not paid within a week, a hold is placed on the student's records. "I hate to do that, especially during Capture season," Kim said.

He said if students show that they are honestly trying to pay their debt to the Foundation, he will not put a hold on the student's registration.

If the Foundation cannot reach the bad check-writers or they will not pay, the debt is turned over to a collection agency. About 15 checks are sent to the collection agency each term, Kim said. "And if he, if he does not turn a hold on student's records, he might be forced to use the Bad Check Program."

Denogean said the Bad Check Program has been the best way to recover bad check debts for Domino's Pizza.

"We have sent checks to the D.A. and they are very effective at getting the money back," Denogean said he called the student number on the check and, if the debt is not paid in cash it is immediately turned over to the Bad Check Program for prosecution.

In order to compensate for bad check losses, Domino's Pizza imposes a 25-cent charge for each check, said Denogean. Domino's Pizza takes in about $13 in check charges daily, he said. "So we break just about even."

PATCHELL

From page 7: "I must pull my pants up to school. I love life, basically."

"It would be unfortunate to leave Po­ ly, but that's why I signed up," he said. Bush already has called up an extra 150,000 troops to join the more than 200,000 personnel already stationed in the Middle East. As the numbers grow, Tom realizes that peace is slipping through the world's hand like sand.

We're definitely looking at a conflict. It's inevitable now," he said. Although he is a student, Tom must be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. He has his gas mask in his room and can put it on and secure it over his face in less than nine seconds.

That's just about how long it takes poisonous gas to filter through his skin and scorch his throat and lungs, he said.

The seriousness of the crisis in the Gulf makes Tom feel animosity towards the government. "That is not going to happen," he said. "I'm sick of students treating the military like we're faceless war machines — we're people."

Tom has gained a greater apprecia­tion for life now that he faces the possibility of war. "This whole conflict makes me appreciate reading and going to school. I love life, basically."

Tom spent this past weekend in Los Angeles sharpening his skills at destroying tanks.

As he was packing up for his monthly trip to the city, he said, "Some friends going to happen," he said. "I'm sick of students treating the military like we're faceless war machines — we're people."

LONDON STUDY PROGRAM

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to: June 13, 1991

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TWO BEDROOM FLATS
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HUMOR

From page 6: Herman is funny, but Pee Wee Herman is over 30 years old. Prime-time television is riddled with kids these days — precious, obedient variants all. Why aren't they in bed or locked in the cellar?

Well, I suppose my rantings are all for naught. You'll just go out and have kids anyway, driving down property values and causing all kinds of problems.

Just warn them about mean old Uncle Dick who lives under the bridge, and keep them out of my face.

PANETTA

From page 1: "There is no chance of war."

Herman gives prior approval to any aggressive act of war. And the fourth step is developing a new energy policy to limit dependence on foreign oil.

Aside from the Middle East, Panetta said he wants the U.S. to help the Soviet Union, in the form of food and economic aid.

Gorbachev has provided leadership toward a more democratic government," he said. "Things have changed dramatically, and it is in our in­ terest to ensure Gorbachev is successful. We are dealing with a changed country and changed leadership."

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