San Luis Obispo police and fire departments take cuts

By Liz Weber
Staff Writer

San Luis Obispo's police and fire services will withstand recent budget cuts, but officials at both departments say further cutting would affect the quality of their services.

"We've taken ourselves down to a very, very lean condition without impacting the service that our customers will see in our everyday operation," said San Luis Obispo police Capt. Cliff Chelquist. "But if they say we have to cut more and if it comes out of salaries, you'd have to lay people off."

"If (the cuts are) a one-time shot, then the impact will probably be fairly minimal," Chelquist said. "But if the economy and the choices we see that additional funds, such as from the police budget, we're going to lose people."

Neumann said, since at least 90 percent of the fire department's operating costs come from salaries, further cuts would directly affect personnel and services.

Neumann said he worries about the future.

"Right now, we've leaned the organization down and I can operate this organization in the years ahead with the kind of budget we currently have," he said. "But I'm real nervous about what's going to happen in the next budget year, because I don't see that this is going to get any better."

Chelquist said, regardless of personnel, the Police Department has certain fixed costs — such as gasoline used by patrol cars — which cannot be reduced.

"If we have no place else to get funds, then the only way to get the money is to cut bodies," he said.

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"If we have no place else to get funds, then the only way to get the money is to cut bodies," he said.

The SLO Police Department has to minimize fuel used by both cruisers and cycles using ammunition.

Chelquist said police will no longer subsidize the pet spay and neuter program due to the budget cuts.

"The idea was to encourage people to spay and neuter their animals so you have less problems all the way through," Chelquist said. "But times are tough."

"I'm concerned about (the budget)," he added. "We'll get through this. It's how we start into the next budget and where we go from there."

Mayor Dunin given honorary membership in ASI

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Staff Writer

San Luis Obispo Mayor Ron Dunin became an honorary member of ASI at Wednesday's Board of Director's meeting.

The board passed a resolution honoring the mayor for his work with Cal Poly students, including his role in forming the Student Community Liaison Committee.

"I've worked with Mayor Dunin on three separate entities including ASI, poly-SCOPE and as an intern with the College of Liberal Arts. "I feel very good about his commitment to the students. Even though he has not always sided with the students, he has always taken our concerns into full account," Dunin said he was "speechless" at the news of his honor.

"That means a lot to me," Dunin added. "I think I have done much to deserve all this," he said. "This is probably what makes serving the people worthwhile — the recognition. It's so good to know that they appreciate what I've tried to do with the entire community."

"It's not that I have anything against him, it's that I don't think we should be mixing politics and the corporation at any time," said Erica Brown, representative from Professional Studies. Brown abstained from the vote.

"I know that he will probably never run for an office again, but I don't feel comfortable with getting involved in politics," she said. "If we start here, where does it stop? People will keep coming to us and wanting us to show our support for them. I feel that it has to be an all or nothing thing — either we're involved (in politics) or we're not."

Cindy Summerson, a representative from the College of Engineering, agreed that politics should be kept out of ASI activities. She said several members of her council were against the resolution, so she had to vote against it.

Although ASI has a legal policy against the endorsing of political officials, the resolution honoring Dunin an honorary member of ASI was allowed because of Dunin's "tage and unlikeliness to run for office again," said ASI President Kristin Burnett.

"What we're trying to do is show that we appreciate that he has always gone out and solicited input from students," she said. "We are not saying that we agree with every political decision he's ever made, but that we appreciate someone who will always try to keep the students in mind."

"I'm hoping all the attention Mayor Dunin is getting for his work with the students will serve as a signal to other civic leaders that students are a priority and it does make a difference to us what is going on in our community," Burnett added.

Dunin said, although he is retiring at the end of this year, he will remain active with students.

"If they ask me to, I'll stay involved, but on a lot smaller scale," he said. "I think there has been a realization that there needs to be some sort of continuity between the students and the rest of the community."

"Students change every year and that could make it very easy for the continuity to be lost," Dunin added. "I think I could provide them that stability, if they ask and want my help."

Dunin will be presented with the resolution in the first 15 minutes of the next board meeting on Dec. 2.

"We are not saying that we agree with every political decision he's ever made, but that we appreciate someone who will always try to keep the students in mind," Burnett said.

Kristin Burnett, ASI president

Opinion

Julia Greenberg is graduating, but she says it's been a long time coming

City

A former Robert Kennedy aide says there's more to the senator's assassination

Sports

Poly's women's cross country team eyes its eleventh straight NCAA title
California faces another $7.5 billion deficit

Sacramento, CA

California faces a $7.5 billion deficit next year, and the figure could grow to $9.3 billion, Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill said today.

The gloomy report follows revenue gaps of $14.3 billion last year and $10.7 billion this year. Those deficits canceled the state’s highest-ever tax increase in 1991 and deep state and local government spending cuts this year after a political stalemate that left California paying bills with IOUs for the first time in 40 years.

The nonpartisan analyst said one of the big factors in the continuing fiscal crisis is that statewide employment in 120,000 jobs below economic estimates made last May. Those estimates were a key part of the revenue base for the 1992-93 budget.

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“Iraq reveals nuclear site

Manama, Bahrain

Iraq now admits that a Baghdad site long suspected of being linked to nuclear arms programs was used to design centrifuges, which can be used to enrich uranium, a key component of nuclear weapons. Saddam Hussein has been holding out on diplomatic pressure to open the site for international inspection.

Dmitri Perricos, leader of a U.N. inspection team, said Iraq refused to allow the inspectors to enter the facility. Perricos said he believed Iraq was hoping to score points with the United Nations prior to a sanctions committee meeting.

The ban on weapons inspectors has long suspected that Saddam Hussein has been holding out on disarming efforts, a key component of the United Nations’ international sanctions against Iraq.

They believe that up to 200 Scud-B missiles, or their equivalents, remain within Iraq. They have been hidden along with rocket boosters and other components. The U.N. weapons inspectors have long suspected that Saddam Hussein has been holding out on disarming efforts, a key component of the United Nations’ international sanctions against Iraq.

King speaks to students

Tustin, CA

Rodney King told high school students that the Los Angeles police officers who beat him during a speeding arrest in 1991 were thugs who must be held accountable.

"For the decency and humanity of all of us, we can't just let them get away with it like that. I mean, you put street criminals in jail. Those thugs police officers ought to be held responsible for their actions," he said.

Exports at all-time high

Washington, D.C.

U.S. exports soared to an all-time high in September despite a sluggish world economy, but imports hit a record as well, leaving America’s trade deficit stuck at $8.95 billion for the month, the government reported Wednesday.

The Bush administration hailed the new report as a sign that American exporters were excelling despite the sluggish world economy.

Private economists noted that the September deficit was down only slightly from a deficit of $8.85 billion in August. Both months represented the country’s worst trade performance since November 1990.

The big jump in exports was widespread, with sales of chemicals, semiconductors, computers and telecommunications equipment all posting big gains.

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On the import side, foreign sales were up sharply for autos and other consumer goods.

Shipments of clothing, diamonds and shoes all posted big gains as retailers stocked up in advance of the Christmas season.

The Bush administration was preparing Wednesday for a last-ditch effort to avoid a trade war with the European Community over the issue of subsidies that the United States claims are costing American farmers $1 billion annually in lost sales of soybeans and other allied crops.

The deficit with Japan accounted for 53 percent of America’s total imbalance. U.S. exports have fared well to developing countries, accounting for 75 percent of all U.S. export growth this year.

King’s appearance at Tustin High School Wednesday night was an effort, his lawyer said, to counter misinformation and perpetuated images of a “monster.”

“Rodney King is not a brain damaged that he can’t talk for himself. ... I think it’s important for his image. He realizes it’s important for the world to know (him) and that’s why we’re here tonight.”

King, 27, told 75 to 100 students, members of the African-American Student Alliance, that he was devastated by a jury’s acquittal of the officers of nearly all serious charges in his beating.

“I felt like the world was caved in, was closed in on all of us as a whole. I couldn’t believe that they came back with that kind of a verdict.”

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Clinton paves the way for presidential transition

President-elect tells capital crowds he will do his best to stay 'in touch'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Clinton is making the official rounds of Washington after discussing the state of the world with President Bush and his new hometown with residents of a working-class neighborhood.

"I do my best not to get out of touch," Clinton promised during a walking tour Wednesday of a predominantly black business district in northwest Washington several miles from the White House.

He said he visited the Georgia Avenue corridor of small shops and restaurants to dramatize his commitment to helping inner cities and small businesses and to demonstrate that Washington was "not just government buildings."

The president-elect already has vowed to work closely with congregational Democratic leaders while reaching out to Republicans in a series of meetings today on Capitol Hill.

Visting Washington on a two-day get-acquainted call, the Arkansas governor planned to cement his relationship with congressional Democratic leaders while reaching out to Republicans in a series of meetings today on Capitol Hill.

The president-elect already has vowed to work closely with leaders to smooth the way for the economic measures he is expected to submit soon after taking office Jan. 20.

He said he visited the Georgia Avenue corridor of small shops and restaurants to dramatize his commitment to helping inner cities and small businesses and to demonstrate that Washington was "not just government buildings."

Clinton has pledged to end the ban on homosexuals in the military.

Clinton also planned private sessions with Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.; House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill.; Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.; House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, D-Mich.; and House Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta, D-Calif.

Late Thursday he was scheduled to receive a military briefing from Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Powell has criticized Clinton's pledge to end the ban on homosexuals in the military.

Clinton offered few new specifics, beyond reiterating campaign promises on a range of key issues and stressing his economic package, stressed heavily by Clinton during his campaign, was the scheduled topic of discussion.

"Clinton's plan includes a modest middle-income tax cut and an increase in the maximum tax rate from 31 percent to 36 percent on households with earnings over $200,000 a year. Clinton also planned private sessions with Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.; House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill.; Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.; House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, D-Mich.; and House Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta, D-Calif.

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"College was a breeze," Jennings said, washing his grimy hands. "With all those budget cuts, they couldn't teach much. They just gave us our grades and answered. "I’ll never get anything you can get so you can go to a CSU and be in and out of my friends do all sorts of juggling—three classes they don’t need to take. The one class they do need that’s being offered is going to be self-paced in 24 units to avoid paying full fees and rent because the next quarter there’s only seven units available for him to take. But you've done this bargaining and made it through and graduated, are we going to tell people who are getting it if we want it? Is our degree going to mean as much coming from a CSU? Cal Poly is a bargain, but only for those who are already in it. Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Koed says Cal Poly will "shrink to fit" and preserve our high standard of education. Other CSUs aren’t even doing that — they’re cutting standards so they can offer thousands of students a little something.

Maybe pete wilson still doesn’t understand that today’s students are tomorrow’s teachers. Or even, for that matter, the health-care professionals who are going to be taking care of pete himself when he's in a retirement home. But for thousands of families, budget cuts have left eligible students in limbo, unable to afford private colleges or out-of-state tuition. There is no space for them in the CSU system, and even if there was, the quality of its faculty is in serious question.

Over the years I’ve watched my friends do all sorts of juggling to get through Poly. Like taking three classes they don’t need to get financial aid so they can take the one class they do need that’s being offered, thereby taking a space from someone who needs the class. Or alternating quarters — each quarter one of my friends has to decide whether he’s going to pay rent or tuition. My neighbor is packing in 24 units to avoid paying full fees and rent because the next quarter there’s only seven units available for him to take. But you've done this bargaining and made it through and graduated, are we going to tell people who are getting it if we want it? Is our degree going to mean as much coming from a CSU? Cal Poly is a bargain, but only for those who are already in it. Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Koed says Cal Poly will "shrink to fit" and preserve our high standard of education. Other CSUs aren’t even doing that — they’re cutting standards so they can offer thousands of students a little something.

Maybe pete wilson still doesn’t understand that today’s students are tomorrow’s teachers. Or even, for that matter, the health-care professionals who are going to be taking care of pete himself when he's in a retirement home. I don't know what the answer is, but I do know that 10 or 20 years down the road, I'm going to think twice about sending my kids to a doctor or dentist with a degree from a California State University.

Personally, I'm not complaining. I played the game, had a great time at Poly, and made it through in 4 and a quarter relaxedly. I've lived a fortunate life to have financial support from my parents. I chose to be the one who comes up to a major I’m happy with. But I don’t think the CSU was intended to be a game where students have to gamble to get a "little something."
Kennedy aide speaks in SLO
Schrade believes RFK's death involved multiple gunmen

By Craig Abernathy

Paul Schrade, a former aide to Robert Kennedy, said Wednesday night he believes there may have been more than one gunman that night Kennedy was assassinated in the Ambassador Hotel.

Schrade spoke at the ACLU's open forum in the San Luis Obispo City/County Library.

Schrade accused the Los Angeles Police Department of conducting a faulty investigation and destroying evidence that was vital in showing the presence of another gunman that night.

On June 5, 1968, then-Senator Robert Kennedy went to the Ambassador Hotel, where he was scheduled to give a speech. Upon entering the hotel, Kennedy and his staff moved to the room where Kennedy was to speak.

After the speech, Kennedy and his staff moved through the pantry, where Kennedy paused and spoke to two people. Schrade said that's one of the last things he remembers of that night. As Schrade turned to leave, Kennedy and members of his staff — including Schrade — were hit by the bullets of assassins Sirhan Sirhan.

Schrade said the first officer called to the scene was told by witnesses that a man and a woman in a polka-dotted dress ran from the building shouting, "We killed Bobby Kennedy!" The officer immediately issued an all-points bulletin.

Within two hours, the APB was called off by the officer's superior. Schrade accuses the official of saying, "We don't want this thing turning into a federal conspiracy."

The suspects were never found.

Schrade also said there were no police stationed around the hotel despite there being "three political parties going on that night."

Former Los Angeles police Chief Darryl Gates was duty chief the night of the assassination.

"When Gates heard about it on the television, he called down to make sure that an investigation was going on and then went to bed," Schrade said.

"There has got to be a question raised about the results and the conduct of the investigation carried out by the Los Angeles Police Department," he said.

Schrade's reasoning that there was more than one gunman was formed after seeing the photos taken that night. One photo shows bullet holes in the door directly behind where Kennedy was standing. An FBI agent told Schrade the piece of the door containing the slugs was cut out and taken into evidence. The piece was later destroyed by the LAPD, he said.

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Schrade said another puzzling fact is the evidence of powder burns on Kennedy's jacket. The gun would have had to be within three inches of Kennedy's ear to make these burns, but witnesses have reported that they saw Sirhan's gun no closer than 18 inches from Kennedy's head.

Schrade also said bullets were recovered hitting Kennedy from behind and to the lower right. According to Schrade, the bullets fired from Sirhan's gun were recovered. But according to Schrade, none of them were taken from the door.

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Ready, aim ... gobble

STEVE PIERCE/Mustang Daily
Cal Poly firefighters Mark Libby (left) and Mike Cruthfield traded in their fire hoses for rifles in the ROTC’s Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot on Thursday. Turkeys were awarded every hour to top shooters.

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Thanks for the incredible Engagement Party, Love, Stephen
Cal Poly happens to hold one of the most impressive streaks in all of sports. The Mustangs' women's cross country team will be gunning for its 11th straight NCAA Division II national title on Saturday in Pennsylvania. Cal Poly's string of crowns is the longest streak in the history of NCAA women's championships. That's not just Division II. That compares with every winning streak ever made by an NCAA women's team. Can we go so far as saying it ranks up there with the best streaks in sports history?

Streaks such as: Joe DiMaggio's 56 straight games with at least one hit, Edwin Moses' 197 consecutive wins in the hurdles and Wayne Gretzky's 51 straight games with a goal or assist.

Of course, all those streaks are probably mentioned on Trivial Pursuit cards. Cal Poly's, however, is highlighted only on page 419 of the NCAA's 1999-2000 record book. But the Mustangs' mark is monumental considering there have been only 11 NCAA women's cross country championships and South Dakota State won the first-ever title in 1981. Cal Poly has carried over through coaching changes as Lance Harter started it in 1982, with Deanne Johnson taking over in 1990 and leading the Mustangs to a pair of titles.

New to the Mustangs' streak are Terry Crawford and Brooks Johnson, who this season took over as the team's head coach and program director, respectively. "Cal Poly commands a lot of respect throughout the nation," Crawford said in an Oct. 16 feature story in the Mustang Daily.

Kristina Hand, who played an integral part in Cal Poly's last three crowns, said the Mustangs' success is well known. "Once you're in high school, you start hearing about (Cal Poly's winning) tradition and you want to be part of that winning team," said Hand, who completed her four years of eligibility last year.

Keeping a streak going is what Cal Poly runners want to do. Nobody wants to be on the team that doesn't continue the tradition. Everybody wants to keep it going," Hand said.

By Kristie McCall
Staff Writer

WFC names five Mustangs to first team

Among the honored were running back Brian Fritz, kicker Bob Thomas, center Lloyd Tiffany, linbacker Mike Zimmerman and defensive back Josh Awama.

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For Cal Poly's winning tradition and you want to be part of that winning tradition, said Hand, "Once you're in high school, you start hearing about (Cal Poly's winning) tradition and you want to be part of that winning team." Crawford said, "Support from teammates is critical."

Sophomore Jennifer Lacovara, seventh at nationals last year, is considered one of the top runners in the competition. Crawford said Lacovara is ready for a "great race."

Other Mustangs competing include Angela Grefe, Vicki Bierley, Cyndy Lazora, Michele Lattanzi, and the players that we pushed their records, said Crawford. "We were pleased and happy about it," said Cal Poly head coach Lyle Setencich said of the all-WFC picks. "I don't recommend a player unless he can really play, and the players that we pushed received their just honors." Fritz, a 5-11, 180-pound senior from Ontario, came on strong in the second-half of the season, averaging 124 yards and scoring five of Cal Poly's seven touchdowns in the final four games.

Thomas converted 16 of 18 point-after kicks and made good on seven of nine field goal attempts.

Awama, one of eight Cal Poly seniors honored, led Cal Poly's defense with 75 total tackles, 39 of which were solo.

Cal Poly quarterback David Stainbrook, who walked on last spring to earn the starting spot, received second-team honors.

Other second team picks included seniors Joe Barna (defensive back) and Chris Smith (kick returner) and junior linemen Jason Vormbaum and Martin Chen.

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brough. To win, Crawford said Cal Poly needs strong performances from Richard Raya and Dan Berkland.

Raya was the Western Regional winner two years ago. Other Cal Poly competitors include Pat Zwief, who placed fourth at the regional meet, Mario Morales, Kevin Berkowitz, Scott Werve and Mike Jones.

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