The Greatest Show on Earth

A float offers a colorful display (above) and a sprite dances across Higuera during the 15th annual San Luis Mardi Gras parade. The parade, titled "The Greatest Show on Earth," was held Saturday.

Fee possible for Rec Center use

Committee debates whether faculty and staff should pay

By Dawn Sievers
Staff Writer

Faculty and staff may not be able to use the new Rec Center for free, but some alumni and former students will.

The Rec Center User Committee is debating over whether or not faculty who use the building for classes should have to pay for their use only. ASI surveys would be used to share information with students.

A faculty member who pays for classes may not be able to use the building for free. However, if the faculty member pays for the center, they will be allowed to use the building for free.

The committee wants to determine who should be exempt and who should have to pay. The committee will meet on Feb. 8 to discuss the issue.

Ancient Spanish book translated by professor

By Silas Lyons
Staff Writer

After 500 years in obscurity, a book that named California and inspired the discovery of North America's West Coast, was important for people to know.

William Little, head of the foreign languages department, worked for five years to translate "The Labors of the Very Brave Knight Esplandian" from the original Spanish version.

Both ASI and Academic Senate officials are concerned with the lack of control during the evaluations. Brown said she is happy with the progress of the task force, and believes this is a step in the right direction.

Because we can't get into the classrooms to do an evaluation, I'm afraid they will be a little less accurate," she said. "We are risking the fact that some students won't take the time to turn them in, and that there may be some confusion in answering the questions.

If we were able to give the evaluations in class, then we would have people present who could answer questions. But we need Academic Senate approval to do in-class evaluations and we've been denied access to the last couple of years.

Next week's surveys will be a means for ASI to determine if the questions on the survey are fair, and prompt the types of responses the task force is looking for.

If the responses tend to be teacher "report cards," then some changes will have to be made, Brown said.

"The faculty has always been concerned that we've wanted to continue with the teaching style, what the course objectives are, and how the professors meet these objectives.

"Believe students know what they want in a professor and are capable of saying what was good or bad without saying they don't like a professor because they got a bad grade.

Teacher evaluation results will first be made available to department chairs, Brown said. What action will be taken from there is uncertain.

"We might make a couple of changes if students want to look through," she said. "But, as far as full-scale publication, I don't know that we are ready for that.

The task force has been working on evaluations for several months, but the cure of the evaluation program depends on money and phases of the next ASI executive staff.

"It takes a lot of money to buy the forms and to mass-produce the evaluations," Brown said. "We may try a couple of different classes next quarter, but that is a step in the right direction.

See EVAulations, page 8
President Clinton and Democratic congressional leaders have agreed to a process that will speed consideration of Clinton's economic package by putting it on a "fast track," the White House announced Tuesday.

The maneuver is designed to result in nearly simultaneous votes, perhaps in April, on two measures: Clinton's $16 billion package of short-term spending increases on roads and other projects, and a separate budget resolution laying out unpopular tax increases and spending cuts.

White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos announced Tuesday evening that Clinton had talked to House Speaker Thomas Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell on the plan. Democratic leaders had pressed for the early votes on Clinton's budget-cutting proposals to improve their credibility on deficit reduction. They have been facing mounting defections in their own conservative wing.

Lawmakers had planned to approve the emergency spending increases in March, with the budget following a month or so later. Holding the votes at the same time will let lawmakers show voters that they are as intent on distasteful budget-cutting as they are on the easier moves to increase spending.

Stephanopoulos said that in phone calls to Mitchell, Foley and House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., Clinton "asked them to put the budget resolution on a fast track so we could lock in the spending cuts as soon as possible and they have agreed."

"So we will be moving the budget resolution as the first part of the president's economic package... to make sure the change is approved as soon as possible."

White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos

**Budget cuts hurt preparedness**

Sacramento, Calif.

California's readiness for the Big One may be the latest casualty of the budget crisis, state officials warned Tuesday.

Local governments squeezed by budget problems are cutting emergency staff. A mapping of places potentially hazardous in an earthquake because of their geology won't be done for 30 years. State government doesn't have money to fix the thousands of state buildings that aren't seismically safe.

Those were some of the problems outlined at a hearing by the National Research Council, a Federal agency that looks at science and technology.

L. Thomas Tobin, executive director of the Seismic Safety Commission, said many fiscally strapped local governments are reducing or eliminating emergency staff and shifting those responsibilities to already overburdened fire and police departments.

Minorities placed on UC Board

Sacramento, Calif.

Gov. Pete Wilson, under criticism for having a University of California Board of Regents that looks like a "good old boys' club," has selected two minorities to fill vacancies.

But minority and public interest groups suggested Tuesday that Wilson was trying to trade the appointees for state Senate confirmation of John Davies, a white millionaire, as a UC regent.

Davies has contributed $39,000 to Wilson's political campaigns.

California Common Cause, Latino Issues Forum, the UC Student Association and other groups oppose Davies' appointment.

"Local government is hurting in this area," he said. State Office of Emergency Services Director Richard Andrews said local governments that de-emphasize emergency services could have trouble fitting into the statewide system should a disaster strike.

*The fundamental problem is the potential for discontinuity at the local level because of budget cuts,* Andrews said.

Minorities placed on UC Board

**Skiers found alive after 4 nights**

Gunnison, Colo.

Five skiers who disappeared in treacherous mountain back country turned up alive Tuesday after surviving four nights of subzero weather.

Two of them walked into a trading post and called authorities. Hours later, the others were found alive, said rescuer Tom McCabe. The three were in reasonably good condition.

The location of the three ended an intensive, three-day search of the rugged back country near Aspen.

Their ordeal began when the three set out Friday with four other skiers on a planned two-night trip. Two from the group made it to safety Saturday.

*Earlier Tuesday, Ken Tarp, 50, of Denver, and Elliott Brown, 43, of Golden, reached a trading post in Taylor Park and called officials from a pay phone. Tarp and Brown told Taylor Park residents they broke into privies and outhouses and melted snow for drinking water to stave off dehydration during their ordeal.*

Compiled from Associated Press Reports

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White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos

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The answer to the test question.
UC clubs lose their funding

Court says UC's forced student fees unconstitutional

By Brad Hamilton
Senior Staff Writer

The California State Supreme Court recently ruled the University of California cannot make students pay a fee to help fund student political groups.

A five-justice majority said UC Berkeley's mandatory $21 annual fee for ideologically oriented groups was unconstitutional because it forced some students to pay for causes with which they disagreed.

The court said groups whose expenses are reimbursed by the UC Berkeley fee include both Berkeley Right to Life and the Campus Abortion Rights Action League.

"We need to be more accepting of diversity," Vasquez said. "If we can't split tuition for teachers, then we shouldn't split money for clubs.

Reeves said he thinks ASI is acting on an opposite ruling handed out in a similar case in January, 1993, that he said declared that mandatory student fees cannot be waived.

"When you pay (an) ASI fee, you are like a shareholder of a corporation," he said. "Students can only waive their membership if fees were being used for something they didn't like."

"We are not Berkeley. They can't split tuition for teachers, then we shouldn't split money for clubs," Reeves said. "We need to be more accepting of diversity." Vasquez said. "If we can't split tuition for teachers, then we shouldn't split money for clubs.

If colleges grant students the decision to direct their mandatory fees for clubs, it shouldn't stop there, Vasquez said. Students should be able to decide how much to pay for athletics and other areas, too, he said. That way, students would end up only paying for what they used, he said.

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Wake up, everybody. San Luis Obispo is not SLO town anymore.

I'm talking about the increase in crimes we seem to have been having in this area. For the past couple of months, I've read reports of sexual assaults on women in San Luis Obispo. Last quarter, a female student was attacked in her Sierra Madre dorm room. On Feb. 3, a woman was raped in the R-2 parking lot here on campus. Now I read that a female jogger was attacked on Friday on Johnson Ave.

San Luis Obispo does not feel safe anymore, and I'm concerned for my safety. The reason I'm writing this is that over the last few days, I've felt rather drained. It is possible some­what isolated this incident. They called the police to the Bay Area, where I'm from, I've always felt safe in San Luis Obispo. I confess that I have walked across cam­pus alone late at night with little fear, even when the lights turn off while I am walking. When I do walk late at night, I must admit that I have gone home in a well-lit area by myself at night, too, but I doubt I would do it again. At least I became aware that a rape, although San Luis Obispo may be a SLO life, it is not excluded from crime.

Since my roommate's encour­agement with the prowling animal or potential rapist, whichever you choose to believe, everyone at my house has taken additional precautions. We nailed shut the windows that did not lack. We double check the lock on the front door at night. If one of us needs a ride, we know who to call home.

The other day at the library, I saw signs warning women of a rapist that lived in the area. I did not make the noise she heard. No, it is not possible her intruder could have been a cat or a possum. After reading about the attacks on women in San Luis Obispo, however, my room­mate assumed that the noise must have been a person. She never actually saw anybody, but the noise was enough to give both my roommate and her boyfriend a good scare.

Personally, I'd rather believe it was an animal than a potential rapist. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing for sure. For our emotional health, we decided that the intruder must have been an animal that night my roommate asked me to sleep in her room again anyway. Ironically, I'm somewhat grateful this incident occurred. Compared to the Bay Area, where I'm from, I've always felt safe in San Luis Obispo. I confess that I have walked across cam­pus alone late at night with little fear, even when the lights turn off while I am walking. When I do walk late at night, I must admit that I have gone home in a well-lit area by myself at night, too, but I doubt I would do it again. At least I became aware that a rape, although San Luis Obispo may be a SLO life, it is not excluded from crime.

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Goethe
Goethe might just have thought otherwise if he had ever visited the California Men's Colony (CMC).

Imagine living your life locked behind clanking steel doors and bars and being surrounded by armed guards watching your every move. This scenario is harsh reality for the 6,150 inmates at CMC.

Freedom becomes a distant memory, but it remains clinging in the future, offering inmates something to live for. It also gives them the motivation to educate themselves while incarcerated.

According to Bonnie Ross, a former professor at Cal Poly and Cuesta College and currently director of the education program at CMC, 225 students are enrolled in classes at the prison.

"One of the most satisfying things I do is to give out diplomas, and see their response ... it's written all over their faces," Ross said.

Classes range in level from basic high school equivalence courses to college-level courses. The three-hour classes are taught in the evening.

Several Cal Poly professors moonlight at CMC. Three of them, Tal Scriven, Phil Fetzer and Don Krieger, shared their experiences.

Scriven, a philosophy professor at Cal Poly since 1980 and at CMC since 1984, remarked on his impressions of student-inmates.

"Inmates are (imprisonment)." Scriven said he makes his impressions of university students to motivate inmates in his CMC classes. "We try to maintain extremely high quality, (outside of prison) don't think about it."

Krieger finds sympathy for his student-inmates, and finds teaching them highly rewarding. "I think they were prisoners in the outside world, in more ways than one."

Although some of his students have violent pasts, Scriven described them as being well-behaved, hard workers. "They are polite, normal people," he said. "They are interested in spiritual and intellectual fortification to get them through (imprisonment)."

Scriven said he realizes how fortunate he is to have his own freedom. "I'm free to walk away. They can't," he said. "I'm different from the people have gone differently in my life, I may have been there myself."

Krieger, a history professor at Cal Poly since 1986 and at CMC since 1992, agreed.

"For the first time they put their whole heart into something that is honest and good," he said.

None of the teachers interviewed has had a problem with inmates cheating on exams. "If I caught them, I'd send them to solitary confinement," Krieger joked.

All three professors agreed that students at CMC are more motivated to learn than the average Cal Poly student. "Some of them are really profound scholars," Krieger said. "They have nothing to do but read."

Fetzer, a political science professor at Cal Poly since 1988 and at the Men's Colony since 1990, praised the inmates' openness. "Their focus is much more complete," he said. "They take classes more seriously."

"The inmates are (some of) the best-read people I've ever known," he said.

Fetzer began a book club that for the last 18 months he met each Saturday. "We have a good time," he said.

Fetzer said working at the prison "... gives you a new view of things. It is good for me. It keeps me aware that more than one world exists. People (outside of prison) don't think about it."

Each of the professors said they used almost identical teaching techniques as they do at Cal Poly. The one exception was that Krieger said he was able to use essay exams exclusively, because of the smaller classes.

Krieger said he uses his impressions of university students to motivate inmates in his CMC classes. "We try to maintain extremely high quality, just like Cal Poly," he said. "I tell them what Cal Poly students are like; I think (Poly students) are a good thing to emulate."

Krieger finds sympathy for his student-inmates, and finds teaching them highly rewarding. "I think they were prisoners in the outside world, in more ways than one."

"I would like to be sort of a role model for them."

They are all basically good people who have made bad mistakes," he said. "To be able to feel that you are giving something to someone who has nothing in an indescribable feeling."

However much the professors may care about the inmates and would like to be role models, it seems they do not want to get too close to the prisoners.

"We are cautioned not to give personal information," Scriven said. "We must keep in mind they are violent individuals."

However violent the inmates are, not one security problem has occurred with any of the three professors.

While teaching, professors wear a badge. And during emergency response drills, the guards arrive within 15 seconds.

"I feel safer there than at Cal Poly," Krieger said. "At least I won't get run over by a flying bicycle."

CMC's classrooms are similar to Cal Poly's, only smaller, with older desks and bars on the windows.

Outsiders visiting the prison are given a background check; they walk through a metal detector, have their identification and are searched. They are also given a discounting bit of information.

CMC has a no-hostage policy. If, while visiting the prison, you happen to be taken hostage by an inmate trying to escape -- and guards determine there is no other way to apprehend him -- the parole board and will shoot through you to stop the prisoner.

Inside the gates, the prisoners in Fetzer's class did not seem to fit their stereotype. They were being polite, considerate and articulate.

Three men clad in blue jeans, blue chambray shirts, dark blue jackets and tennis shoes, shared their stories. All three were convicted murderers who had been sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Eric Schlaglager has served 10 years of his life sentence. He has served two times since being in prison, and is also a father.

Tom Fox, 45, has been in prison for 11 years for murdering his ex-wife's lover.

Rudy Villalobos, 32, a former Los Angeles gang member, has served 13 years of his life sentence.

All three inmates feel very privileged to be involved in the prison education program. "I got the time to do it," said Villalobos. "With Pete Wilson around, there's no telling when I'll be out."

The other two inmates expressed similar concerns about being released with "Uncle Pete," as Fox called him, in office.

Each of the prisoners feel that receiving an education has given them personal satisfaction, and helped their esteem and self-control. "It's given me more control over my life and my future, even though my future is uncertain," Schlaglager said.

They all believe that, when they are released, their schooling will help them get a good job. Villalobos, a high school dropout who joined a gang when he was 12, hopes to become a gang counselor. "I think I could help," he said. "I'd use myself as an example of what not to be like."

The inmates do not feel that they would be getting an education if they weren't in prison. "I'd be in a gang or dead," Villalobos said.

Schlaglager said it had always been his dream to get an education. "It's a shame that I can get an education and others can't," he said. "I feel sorry for them."

"I think they were prisoners in the outside world, in more ways than one."
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**EVALUATIONS**

From page 1

how big this one can get is going to depend on next year's AIS staff. It's going to take manpower and a budget.

Although the task force selected History 315 and Philosophy 230 courses to evaluate, department chairs from both departments were unaware of the plan Tuesday morning.

"This is truly the first I've heard of it," said history Department Chair Bob Burton. "As far as I know, nobody in this department knows this is going to happen. It's hard to say how they are going to feel about this because they have no idea it's happening."

"Personally, I'm concerned about the lack of controls. Because the evaluations will be handed out outside the classroom, I'm concerned about the number who will turn them in.

"If it's a class of 48, how many are really going to answer it?" he added. "Probably those with an interest will want the only ones to return them. How accurate can that be? If there were a way that it could be required that someone complete one, then it might be a lot more accurate and acceptable."  

Philosophy Department Chair Dean Michalbier said she is concerned about the evaluations.  

"I agree that in principle it's a good idea. It gets students more information, but I'm worried about the control element," she said. "Any type of information I get from these will not be used in any way to determine personnel decisions."

Brown said it was never intended that the surveys be used to determine tenure or other personnel matters.

Academic Senate Chair Jack Wilson said he is in favor of the evaluations, but would like to see a compromise met where AIS could work out the questions with faculty members.

"I think it's good to get some criticism," he said. "I've always looked at my (department) evaluations and tried to determine what I need to be doing differently to be more effective. I wouldn't hope that is how they are used and that more teachers would be willing to use them."**

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**TRANSLATION**

From page 1

the awareness of their ties to European culture. He said his "Camelot" currently on the market is the scholarly edition with an academic introduction and footnotes.

If it sells out, Little said, the publisher will print a paper back.

Little was also contracted recently to translate his academic edition of "Labor" into Spanish and publish a similar version in Spain.

But Little said he hopes to target more than just scholars. He said he'd love to see "Labor" made into a Steven Spielberg movie, and has called Universal Studios to ask if they would be interested in a screenplay.

"It's a cross between 'Cemotol,' 'Back to the Future' and 'Shar Wars,'" he said.

**REC CENTER**

From page 1

This credit time for free use would begin after the graduation of each student for the application.

A final decision is not expected for several weeks, but the committee is exploring several options.

One would be to form a database of all alumni and former students dating back to 1996. People would be granted the same number of quarters of free use as the number of quarters they paid registration.

Because the database would be elaborate and expensive, some committee members were quick to consider other options.

ASI Executive Director Roger Conway suggested handling alumni on an "inquiry by inquiry basis." When a former student came to use the center, he said, they could give a refundable deposit on the first visit. Then, the personal student's history could be checked and he/she would have an expiration date for his/her free use.

Director of Athletics John McCutcheon said he thought this option would be better.

"You don't want to build a database of all these people and then discover that you are only dealing with two percent of them," he said.

Piros said Conway will have a report in two weeks about the feasibility of the database. After that, he said, a document will be formed outlining the policy for granting alumni and former students center access.

The document will be submitted to President Baker after final approval is given by the committee, he said. The center is now scheduled to open in April.