

ALTERNATIVE



First Words

In the last issue we printed a letter written by God. Since the publication we have received a few letters in response, some of which are printed inside. The decision to print the letter was solely my responsibility. I however did not write the letter myself, nor did any of my staff. The letter made a very good point and one in which I tend to believe. This was a factor in why I chose to publish the letter.

The main point of the letters we have received are that we had the nerve to assume that we could speak for God, and that someone dared to call himself God. Which brings me to the subject of this editorial: Why are you so unwilling to believe that the letter was truly from God. I admit that it may seem a bit unusual, but

I have been told that God moves in mysterious ways.

One reason that could explain that doubt expressed by readers about the letter, is that it did not say what people wanted it to say. It did not agree with the teachings of some churches and their interpretation of the Bible. But both of these are only words and interpretations of men. The Bible was not written by God or Jesus only about them and many years after Jesus Christ died.

So why is it so hard for people to believe. Do they realize if Jesus Christ were to arrive tomorrow no one would believe him. It sounds like a joke but you people can't even believe a short simple letter let alone a real person claiming to be God.

Now I admit that I am not convinced

that Jesus Christ was actually the son of God. He could have been, stranger things have happened (a small group of idealists succeeding in publishing newspaper). But I do believe in a greater power. Call it God, Allah, Buddah or even the Lucky Charms Leprechaun. The name is unimportant.

So open your mind. Is it really that unusual for this power to send a communication to a paper that has questioned its existence. You will, of course, believe what you will and that is your right. But God was right; "just keep it simple folks".

Until next time, God (or whoever) bless you.

Robert D. Frick
Publisher

The Long Walk Home

The party broke up around two in the morning, and we started our journey home.

"Hey, man let's take the backroads," I said. "It's safer."

"You're a pussy, Williams," Chris replied, as we stepped off the curb and approached the next block

"maybe I am," I said. "But I'd rather be a pussy than get my ass kicked." Chris always had a way to get us in trouble. he wasn't afraid of flipping people off, and I knew if we walked down the main avenue, someone would holler at us, and he'd give them the finger. It happened before. I was the one they caught, because he's faster. If it wasn't for some smooth talking on my part, the guy would have beat my head in.

I managed to keep us off the avenue, and we weaved our way through an old neighborhood in central Stockton. Chris walked with his hands in his pockets, and the collar of his jean jacket was pulled up to below his ears. His broad shoulders moved with the rhythm of his long legs. He was fairly skinny, but the muscles on his chest and arms, underneath his jacket and shirt, were highly defined and stretched his skin taut. I was a little shorter and stockier, but we both could bench about the same amount of weight, and were an even match in football. The only characteristic that separated us greatly was our personalities. I got good marks on school and avoided fights

while Chris struggled to pass his classes, and fought with seniors, who were two years ahead of us. He didn't always win in these fights, but he never was afraid. Although I was intelligent enough to realize the stupidity of his fighting, I envied his courage.

We crossed El Dorado Street. It was empty except for the traffic lights, the lines that marked the road and an occasional stray car. I counted the time with landmarks. We reached the bridge. It was made of concrete and arched over a small river that ceased to flow in the Summer. During the day, I wouldn't think twice about it, but the graffiti that was scribbled underneath the railing, and the stench of the stagnant water made it seem ugly.

We passed our High School that stood lifeless, and I could see the lights of the supermarket off in the distance. I told myself that it would only be like walking home from school now, a total of exactly six blocks, and I embraced the familiar area with increasing comfort. We approached the mailbox at the end of the corner, and I surveyed the surroundings for movement.

We had been walking for almost an hour now and the exercises helped diminish the effects of the beer. We were never really very drunk, but now I felt completely sober.

I looked over my left shoulder at the sound of a car, and a taxi appeared from behind me. As it passed by, I followed its tail lights with my eyes until it stopped at a red light, a block and a half ahead.

The harsh sound of a bumper scraping against pavement alarmed me, and I turned to Chris.

"Did you hear that?" I asked.

Chris didn't answer. he directed his attention towards the taxi that sat still at the intersection.

"The lights green," he said, "and the guys just sitting there."

He started walking faster and another sound echoed throughout the quiet streets - the metal crash of car doors slamming. There was a brassy taste in my mouth and the fresh Summer air seemed to grow stale as reached the corner. The cab waited in the intersection.

A voice whimpered, and four or five Vatos huddled around it, raising and lowering their arms in unison.

"There fucking stabbing him." Chris uttered in disbelief.

"C'mon let's go," I said. "Let's get out of here."

"HEY!" Chris bellowed, and they stopped.

I panicked and turned from him. If they killed him, then it's his own fault, I thought. I tried to walk as if I was oblivious to the situation. The car doors slammed again, and the car started. The grinding sound of the engine increased, and it appeared on my left. One of the youths hung his arms out the window. blood stained the sleeves of his white tee shirt, and his eyes rolled upward, not with the fierce look of a man in rage, but rather in a cold impersonal malignance. I looked away, and I heard the car continue down the road.

I crossed the

neighbors lawn, jumped the fence and went in my bedroom window. About an hour later I heard the leaves rustling outside and I knew it was Chris. I unlocked the window and lifted it up.

"Mark, why did you leave?" He asked, as he wriggled his long body through the small opening of the window.

"Shhhhhh, you'll wake up my parents," I said to avoid his question.

"Man that dude was wasted bad," he said, collection himself. He stood over me while I sat on my bed.

"Is he still alive?"

"Fuck yeah," he said with pride. "He must have been stabbed about ten or fifteen times. His face was all bloody and parts of his arms were slashed, I guess he tried to cover himself. he was rude looking," Chris said grimacing.

"How old was he?"

"I don't know, man, but he couldn't have been much older than us. He was just sitting by the pay phones waiting for that taxi, and the driver just watched. I called an ambulance and flipped off the fuckin' cabbie. Then he jammed. What a..."

"How did you know he was still alive? Did you talk to him?"

"Well, when I got there he was just squirming on the ground in a pool of blood. To tell you the truth, man, I thought he for sure he would die right there, right in front of me." I pulled at my bottom lip with my teeth and covered my mouth with my hand. My throat was turning numb, and I felt like I was going to vomit. "He kept telling me 'help me...please help me', and I kept telling him I was, but he was fucked

BOMB SHELTER DISCS

ANDREW DARROW

Dear Editor,

These vinyl gems were delicately hand selected from the finest batch of Rock N' Roll, this side of the Rockies.

1. "Kicking Against the Pricks", Nick Cave
2. "Candy Apple Grey", Husker Du
3. "Reckoning", R.E.M.
4. "King of America", Elvis Costello
5. "Tim", The Replacements
6. "Chronicles", Creedence Clearwater Revival
7. "Bloody Nonsense", Jazz Butcher
8. "Animal Boy", Ramones
9. "Rest in Peace", Electric Peace
10. "Revenge", T.S.O.L.

Suicidal Disc: Turn on SLY 96, and take your pick

John Hiestand

Dear Editor,

Here are my 10 "Bomb Shelter Discs". Keep in mind that these are some of the greatest albums of all time and only an insensitive cave dweller would say different.

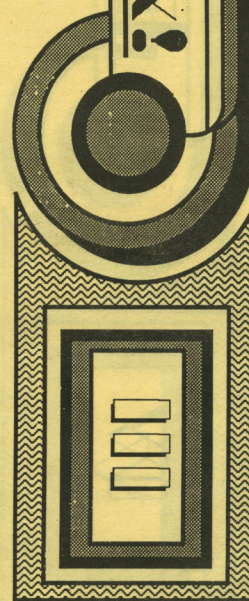
1. "Deja Vu", Crosby, Stills and Nash
(David Crosby may be fatter than shit - but he sure can sing)
2. "Aqualung", Jethro Tull
3. "And the Twain Shall Meet", Eric Burdon and the Animals
4. "Best of John Lee Hooker", John Lee Hooker (This dude is a Blues Icon)
5. "Bringing it all Back home", Bob Dylan
(Quite simply the man is God)
6. "Houses of the Holy", Led Zeppelin
7. "Eric Clapton", Eric Clapton
8. "5th Dimension", The Byrds
(A psychedelic classic)
9. "Couldn't Be the Weather", Stevie Ray Vaughn
10. "Decade", Neil Young

Suicide Discs: Anything played on KCPR (regular format) - this is a hint kids. Play some real music.

Sean Cryan

Number 7
March 1987

Relax!



up. When the ambulance got there, they put him onto the stretcher and he thanked me. He shook my hand. "Chris held out his hand imitating the action, and there was still blood on it.

I felt restless and stood up. I crossed over to my stereo and turned it on to, hopefully ease my tension. I turned the knob to the first station I heard, keeping the sound low.

If I was the taxi driver, I would have ran those guys over with the car, I thought, crossing the room again towards my bed. Chris continued telling me all the minor details of his heroism, but my mind drifted, and I wondered how I was going to save face at school on Monday.

I looked up at Chris, who was still talking, and I noticed a

warm sense of humanity in his eyes. A realization flashed in my mind; Chris didn't fight out of hatred, but rather from a vitality he had for life. The eyes of the Mexican came back to my memory. There was no rage or vitality in them, only vacant, impersonal image that hated life.

Chris stayed for an hour before he finally talked himself down, and jumped back out the window. I tried to sleep, but could only stare at the ceiling and debate with myself whether or not I made the right decision. The red and green lights of the stereo receiver blinked with the beat of the music, and the moon shined through the open window.

Every time I managed to relax my mind enough to let go, a cat would let out a

screech somewhere outside or the house would creak, and the whimpering voice, fighting for life, would return. I wished for a second chance so I could say "HEY!", and save his life; I kept putting myself on that corner, but I couldn't say it. As much as I tried I couldn't do it. I rolled over and over until sleep overwhelmed me

DAVID MATLEY

Dear Editor,

Here are my choices for "Bomb Shelter Discs, probably in order of necessity:

1. "Dream of the Blue Turtles", Sting
2. "Heavy Metal", Movie Soundtrack
3. "Night on Bald Mountain/Pictures at an Exhibition", Nussorgsky by the New York Philharmonic
4. "Windsong", John Denver
5. "The Empire Strikes Back", John Williams London Symphony Orchestra
6. "Hotel California", The Eagles
7. "Rumors", Fleetwood Mac
8. "Three Sides Live", Genesis
9. "Concert In Central Park", Simon and Garfunkel
10. "Point of No Return", Kansas (No pun intended)

Suicide Incentive: Debbie Boone's "You Light Up My Life"

Virginia Langdon Lassagne

Forum

Number 7
march 1987



Dear Editor:

Getting love and attention seems to be what everyone wants. For me, holidays like Valentine's Day become expectations for love and affection. The few days before Valentine's became a fight with myself against depression because my wants for love and affection could not be met.

Whenever a relationship ends or my partner dates other people, I become extremely jealous and depressed. At this point I use extortion to obtain affection. I usually end up telling my partner of fictitious girlfriends that I have been seeing or I even threaten to leave her just to get an affirmation of my partner's love. I depend on my partner for emotional stability, and my mood fluctuates with how loved I feel.

Research has shown that my behavior is prevalent in society. The cause is, of course, from childhood anxieties and how we perceived our parents and their relationship. How we showed our love as infants emerges in adulthood in our romantic love. Mary Ainsworth, at the University of Virginia, has classified infants according to the bonds they have formed with their parents, particularly with their mothers in the first year or two of life. Infants who feel their mother is available and responsive are most secure. But those who feel insecure about being loved fall into one of two patterns: some become like me described above (anxious and clinging), while others react by withdrawing and avoiding reliance on anyone.

Ainsworth has found that about two-thirds of people are secure while one-third fall into equal proportions of the anxiously clinging or withdrawing categories. That is a lot of misery out there!!

The answer is change and understanding of yourself and your partner. Intimacy, passion and commitment are the major components of love and a successful relationship. Intimacy is the understanding of your partner's wants and needs, the ability to listen and support, and sharing of yourself. Passion is the caring about your partner's physical attractiveness and commitment is the strong emotional attachment that is similar to working hard at your job. You have to work constantly at rejuvenating your

relationship - which is a total commitment.

So lets just understand and keep loving.

George
Dennison

Dear Editor:

Concerning your "First Words" article in number 6, where you had a writer pose as God: I think that that piece was in very bad taste, and had absolutely no journalistic integrity. Nobody on your staff has the right to speak for God, especially if you intend to discount the importance of the Christ in the Christian religion. I do not understand how anybody could feel all right posing as God, putting down a religion that holds God in the highest esteem, and sincerely believes that the only way to Heaven is through His son, Jesus Christ. This view has plenty of backing for it in the Scripture (John 14:6, for starters: "And Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the father but through me,'" or Timothy

2:5: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus") while your views have no backing except your own philosophies. I might add that it is quite senseless to accept some biblical concepts of God without accepting all of them, as to do so is to call God a liar by saying that some of his words are true, but others are not. You are either for God or against Him.

Additionally, Christians do not believe that practicing Jesus' principles in daily life will get them to Heaven ("For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9). Only faith can save a Christian ("For God so loved the world that he gave His

one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16)

One last thing - classifying Christians as "Jesus freaks and Bible thumpers" is not quite fair. Christians deserve much more respect than you give them. Simply because people have strong faith in a religion does not merit your putting it down.

Jay Austin



Get into it!

Submit your work to the Alternative
Letters, Articles, Poems, Artwork,
Photography

Drop your work into the Alternative Box in room
302 of the Architecture building or send it to...

THE ALTERNATIVE

331 Kentucky #C San Luis Obispo CA 93401

Dear Editor:

I was surprised to see my name on the front page of the last issue of the Alternative (a dubious honor, but I picked up four souvenir copies nevertheless) and was somewhat amused by the editorial, signed by a sincere fellow who has a slight identity problem. I appreciated his kind wishes for my afterlife, and I read with eager anticipation to see what stunning evidence he would give to rebut my previous letter. Needless to say, I was fully bummed that he didn't deliver.

The author of the letter gives a popular view of religion: God is who you think he is, and if you do some "footwork" in life, you'll have a decent

afterlife. The issue, however, isn't "What is popular?" but "What is true?" If 70% of all people declare gravity to be non-existent, it would not disappear by a majority opinion.

To "turn your life over" to a being who claims that it is "not necessarily important how you come to understand" him, and describes himself as "however you understand me", would be foolish. Where is the author's sense of scrutiny? Tolerance is wrong when we tolerate something that is not true.

I don't claim to be a "fundamentalist" (whatever the popular definition of the word may be at the moment), but it

was Jesus Himself who claimed to be the only way to God, even the "Jesus freaks and Bible thumpers" didn't make that one up.

I've fought for a long time against mindless, soothing apothegms that promote easy, placating religion. I prefer to do things the hard and unpopular way and research religious claims to see which are true. I sincerely hope that nobody will accept any religious belief simply because it is popular. Use your minds, my friends, and look for evidence, not a lollipop. (For those who are still confused, God did NOT write the editorial.)

In my previous letter, I tried to raise issues

dealing with the historical claims of Christianity, and indicate pivotal issues for those interested in challenging the historicity of the faith. I appreciate the humor in the editorial, but I am disappointed in the author's complete lack of interest in supporting his own claims with adequate (or even inadequate) evidence.

I should hope this subject would provoke intelligent, responsible views from both sides. If the editors do not step on our right to free speech, I look forward to hearing those views.

Thank you very much!

Cathy Hillman

The Alternative

Laine Johnson Founder
Robert D. Frick Publisher
Kirsten Peters Assistant Publisher
Mary Ahearn Managing Editor

Editorial Staff

Linda Black Literary Editor
Andrew Darrow Entertainment Editor
Jonathon McMurtry Sports Editor
Becky Anning Copy Editor
Richard Elstner Copy Editor

Elyse Goin Typist
Sabrina Osiander Typist
Rob Lynde Photographer
Joe Lavine Photographer
Seth Beltran Staff Writer

The Alternative is an independent student publication. It, its advertisers and its printer do not necessarily endorse any of the views contained herein. Letters and articles are the opinion of those who write them.

For information concerning the Alternative contact:

Robert D. Frick or Kirsten Peters
331 Kentucky Apt. C
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Thank you for your support

Dear Editor:

You can't be serious: The Alternative speaking on behalf of God? Nevermind the actual content of the "First Words" section, I think you guys are taking on an unusually audacious stance by printing a letter whose author is "God." Is the author of this "First Words" section prepared to live his or her life confident that they know God's mind and attributes well enough to talk on God's behalf?

The idea is fine: have God write a letter back to Cathy Hillman in response to Cathy's article on him. Yet printing a response to Cathy from God requires someone to write that response. Where does this writer get the credentials to speak for God?

I hope this was a fun idea not intended to be taken seriously. The letter from God makes very serious statements, though. Does whoever spoke for God know just who can and cannot go

to Heaven?

I am a Christian. Cathy Hillman and I spent last summer together at Oxford, England devoting ourselves to talking about issues of faith with students there. I do not claim to speak for God, I claim to believe what the Bible says about Him. My credentials are based on the historically reliable biblical text - not my own conception of God.

Please communicate to whoever wrote February's "First Words" that I would be willing to give the basis for my beliefs in a rational, objective way. I'd like to see the basis for their beliefs about God.

Speaking for God is extremely serious. The destiny of every human being is a mystery to us all. Every person, consciously or unconsciously, has a sense of eternal significance - of there being more than just what we see and live here on earth. This letter to you was meant to

highlight my alarm at The Alternative printing a letter from God. Do you want that responsibility? I'd like some feedback from you.

Jennifer N. Schofield

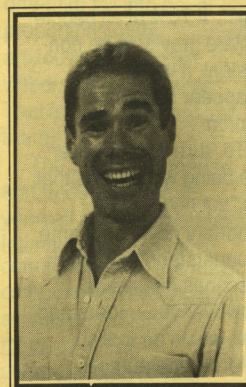
Number 7
march 1987

Forum

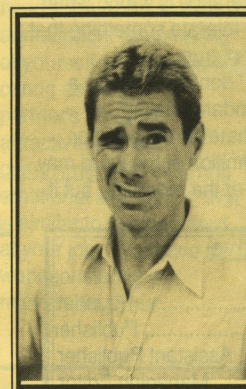




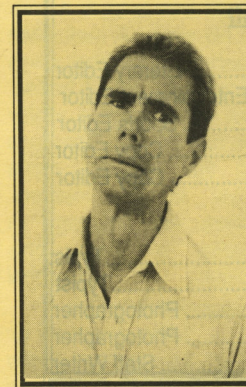
Today's question: "Are you enjoying the Cal Poly experience?"



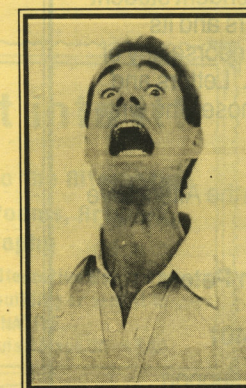
"Oh yes! All of my classes are very, very interesting and the homework is tough - but it's worth it."
Akamai Elstner 1st year



"Pretty well. Oh, I have a few complaints: CAR problems, adding classes, professors who don't show up at their office hours, standing in line at records to straighten out errors that they created. Other than that, everything is o.k."
Akamai Elstner 2nd year



"I can't wait to get out of this place!"
Akamai Elstner 3rd year



Aaaaaaarrrrrrggggghhhh
!!!
#356-38-3367 4th year

THE DARK ROOM



Next Door To The Fremont Theater
1037 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo
Minors Welcome Until 8 P.M.

Great Music
Great Hamburgers
Bud and Coors Pitchers
\$2.50 during Happy Hour



Performing at the Darkroom

Feb. 18, Ninth Priority and The Wimpy Dicks
Feb. 19, Dynamo Rye and Lyres
Feb. 20, Happy hour - Damage Done, 9:00 - Secret Service
Feb. 21, Twinkee Defence
Feb. 24, Jill Knight Trio
Feb. 25, Fryer Duck
Feb. 26, Guy Budd
Feb. 27, Happy Hour: Jill Knight,
9:00: Johnny Wool and the Gaberdines
Feb. 28, Secret Service
March 4, Critic Eyes

Ultimate Report

Core, the Ultimate Club at Poly, was off at a tournament this past three-day weekend. This past week they had four scrimmages. They beat Santa Maria and took two out of three matches from Santa Barbara.

Now, some facts about Ultimate. It's a field sport played by two seven-player teams. It is played with a plastic disc (not a frisbee, a disc) and was started in 1968 in New Jersey. In 19 years, Ultimate has grown to more than 110 organized college teams and countless other intramural and city league teams. In addition, it's played in more than 16 countries.

The object of the game is to score goals. The field is 70 yards long and 40 yards wide, and the endzone is 25 yards

long. To score a goal, the team moves the disc down the field by passing it; the only time a player can run with the disc is to gain control after a catch. The last pass has to be caught in the endzone. If the disc is knocked down, intercepted, thrown incomplete or out of bounds, the disc changes possession. The game is played until a team reaches the predetermined number of goals (normally 15).

Ultimate requires a lot of skill and stamina. Play is virtually continuous and requires a lot of running, so it helps to be in good shape. Two major reasons for the success of Ultimate are its low injury rate and its low cost to players; just buy a disc and jump into some shorts and you're ready. It's also a fun way

to stay in shape (or get in shape).

Like basketball, Ultimate players must establish a pivot foot and have a limited time to pass the ball when being closely guarded (the defender counts aloud while closely guarding). If play is stopped because of a timeout, injury or foul, play is resumed using a "check"; the defender hands the disc to the thrower and calls "disc in" to resume play.

One of the intriguing aspects of Ultimate is the use of the honor system. The responsibility for fair play rests with the player himself. The spirit of Ultimate is so strong that it is assumed no player would intentionally foul for any reason. Even if the player would benefit, the morality of the game

prevents intentionally fouling. There are no referees and players call their won fouls. The following quote from the Ultimate rules sums it up, "Highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of the bond of mutual respect between players, adherence to the agreed-upon rules of the game, or the basic joy of play" It sounds idealistic, but it works.

The Ultimate Club will have a fund-raiser later this quarter to cover travel expenses to nationals, which are outside of California (they are somewhere within the Continental U.S.-more specifics later). To do this, the Core will have to advance through the Southern Sectional Tournament, then finish as one of the top two teams in the Western States Region.

Walt Duflock

Performance Based Scholarships

There is an obvious problem in the athletic department at Cal Poly. Many athletes receive non-conditional full-ride scholarships and play one or two years before "retiring" (the old take the money and run trick), while the walk-on athletes and late bloomers who contribute a great deal often receive no financial support.

Many full-ride scholarships are awarded on the basis of high school performance. Since athletes reach their peak at different ages, the current system is grossly unfair. Also, different sports lend themselves to different maturities. Swimmers and sprinters rely heavily on physical repetition and many burn-out from sheer exhaustion by the

age of twenty. In team sports such as basketball, many athletes don't polish the mental side of their game, as well as mechanics, until age 24 or 25.

These differences necessitate a change in the scholarship system. Scholarships should be awarded on a year-to-year basis with allowances for injuries. Performance from the last athletic season should determine who gets next year's scholarships. If a player didn't play well last year or decides to sit out a year, give that scholarship to an athlete who did perform well and is going to play this year (As Smith-Barney would say "let them earn it"). Performance-based scholarships are fair; most academic

scholarships require a minimum grade-point average to maintain eligibility.

Some of you would argue that this doesn't give the "coach's player" (the one with the good attitude who never misses practice) a fair shot at scholarships. But, the whole idea of scholarships is to give the outstanding athlete some financial help for his contribution to the school. If the athletic scholarships were based on performance (I'll admit there should be a "need" factor as well), the overall system would be much fairer than the current system. For those who say this discriminates against junior-college players, I must disagree. Their junior-college performance could be

used as the base for deciding scholarships. Coaches should be able to tell at what level the athlete performed based on the athlete's team, as well as individual, statistics.

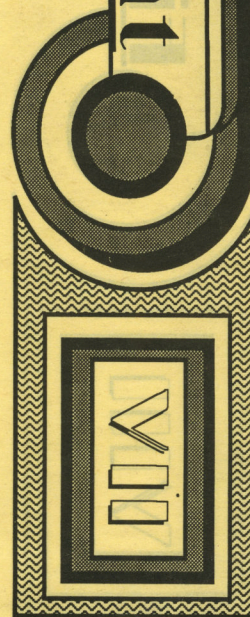
In sum, the current scholarship system needs to be revised to include criteria for performance, as well as need and injury considerations.

Unfortunately, even with performance as a base for scholarships, politics would still be involved. The selection committee would have to contain some members who are not coaches to prevent favoritism. Like everyone else, I have no solution for eliminating politics, so I will sign off.

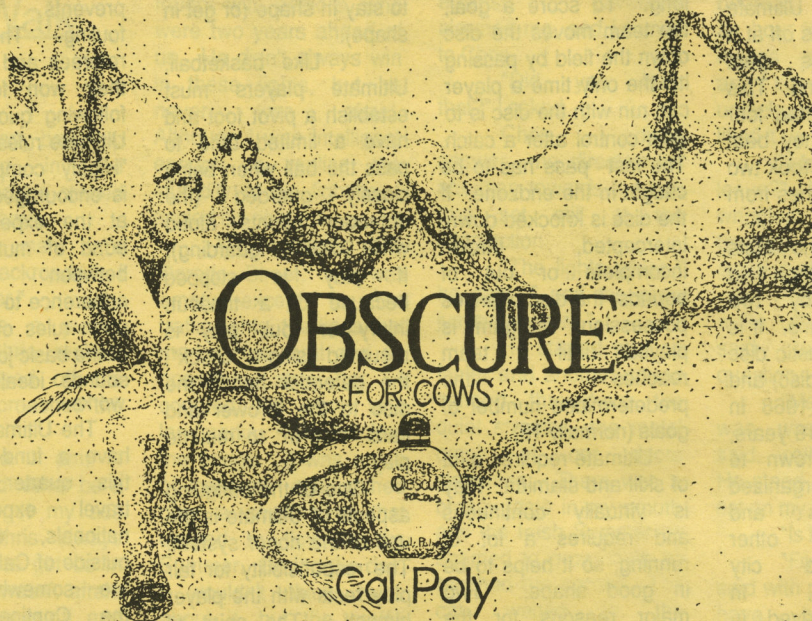
Walt Duflock

Number 7
March 1987

Sweat



Editor's Note: The Alternative Sports Department encourages you to express your opinion. Letters of rebuttal on this or any other article should be submitted in the Alternative Mail Box in the Rec Sports Office.



Artwork by: Michael Wei


<p>BREAKFAST • LUNCH <i>FE</i> EVENINGS</p> <p>Linnaea's</p> <p>CAFE</p> <p>A European style coffee house 1110 Garden St., Phone: 541-5888</p>	March 1	Cal Poly Poetry	7:30
	March 7	Ross Altman Folk Music	8:30 \$3.00
	March 8	SLO Folks Jam Bring your own instruments!	7:30
	March 11	Sally Rogers Folk (Conneticut)	7:00-9:30
	March 15	From the Corners of the Mouth Poetry Reading	
	March 18	Washington Sisters Folk/Jazz	7:30 \$5.00

Alternative T-Shirts
available now!!

Featuring the ALTERNATIVE logo
\$6 Yellow \$8 Tie Dyed

Send check and this order form to:
THE ALTERNATIVE
331 KENTUCKY *C SAN LUIS OBISPO CA 93401

Name _____
Phone _____
Size, Color, and Quantity _____



A Crisis Pregnancy Center

- 24 Hour Hotline 461-3405 / 543-6000
- F R E E P R E G N A N C Y T E S T S
- Audio Visual Presentations On Pregnancy, Abortion and Alternatives, Fetal Development • Open Independent Adoption • Sheltering Homes • Ongoing Counseling And Friendship • Assistance With Medical And Legal Needs • Post Abortion Counseling

461-3405 or 543-6000