



REPORTER

A publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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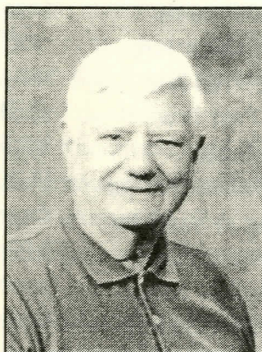
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Scientist Elected as CSU-ERFA President

Robert Maurer, emeritus professor of physical science at CSU Chico, was unanimously elected president of CSU-ERFA at the recent meeting of the State Council.

Maurer succeeds **Emmett Long**, emeritus professor of speech communication at CSU Fullerton, who had served as president for four years.

After serving in the US Navy during World War II, Maurer attended Stanford where he completed a B.S. in chemistry and an M.S. and Ph.D. in physical science. He joined the faculty at Chico in 1952. Reaching full professor in 1965, Bob also held positions as chair of the faculty senate, chair of his department, and dean of the School of Professional Studies. He opted for the Faculty Early Retirement Program in 1983 and continued to teach until 1991.



He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, the Society of Sigma Xi, and the British Society for the History of Science.

Maurer also served as visiting professor at Stanford University and spent a sabbatical at Oxford University in 1974, "just missing Bill," as he reports. [See his first message to the membership elsewhere in this issue. Ed.]

At the same meeting of the State Council, **James Ryan** (Long Beach) was elected vice president, and **C. Dale Johnson** (San Diego) and **Sol Buchalter** (Northridge) were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Further, **David Elliott** (San José), **Judson Grenier** (Dominguez Hills), and **Paulina June Pollak** (Fullerton) were chosen as delegates-at-large to the State Council. Under revised bylaws, President Long appointed **Milt Dobkin** to a vacancy on the Executive Committee. •

Cornerstones Getting Attention

The March 1997 draft report "Cornerstones: Planning for the Next Decade" from the Office of the Chancellor is provoking much discussion among constituent groups of the California State University. See the report from the Academic Senate elsewhere in this issue as an example.

Launched as a comprehensive, systemwide strategic planning initiative to evaluate strategies and plans for the next decade, the report contains a "Cornerstones Principles" introductory chapter and the reports of four task forces: Learning for the 21st Century, chaired by James Highsmith; Meeting the Enrollment and Resource Challenge, chaired

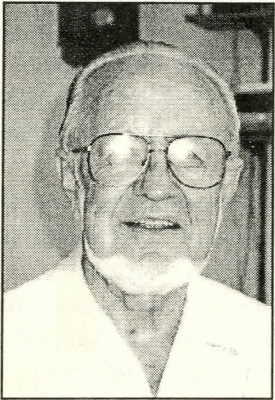
by Molly Corbett Broad; Institutional Integrity, Performance, and Accountability, chaired by Bernie Goldstein; and Postbaccalaureate and Continuing Education: Helping Shape California's Future, chaired by Steve Weber.

Cornerstones was stimulated in part by the Association of Governing Boards and the Pew Trusts Higher Education Round Table and stems from the recognition that "[t]he rapidly changing demographic, economic, and political environment [sic] will require significant changes in the content and outcomes of the teaching and learning process within the university." [continued page 3]

Message From the Past President

On July 1, 1997, **Robert Maurer** (Chico) became the fifth president of CSU-ERFA. Welcome, Bob!

Our organization has had only four presidents since **Sidney Albert** (LA) founded it in 1985. Tradition dictates that past presidents never cease to work for or support CSU-ERFA.



In recognition of their exemplary service to the organization, the State Council conferred honorary membership on Past Presidents **Sidney Albert, Jack Byrom, and Milton Dobkin**, at its May 10, 1997, meeting in San Mateo. This act by the council was the first under a new bylaw adopted last year. We also awarded the same honor to longtime treasurer **Edwin Bartenstein**.

It has been a pleasure to follow in their footsteps these past four years, during which time the association has reached its maturity. We have continued to represent the interests of CSU emeriti statewide in line with the purposes set out in our original constitution. In doing so we have provided representation to state and national agencies, financial support to campus affiliates, and response to individual problems of members.

Some of the things we achieved these last four years include:

1. Establishing a consultant program;
2. Assisting CalPERS in developing a Long-Term Care Insurance program;
3. Working to reverse the 1992 retiree legislation that prevents emeriti from continuing to serve the CSU;
4. Working to improve dental care insurance;
5. Establishing an endowment and grants program;
6. Contributing to the endowment fund in memory of deceased members;
7. Establishing a dispersed membership committee;
8. Conducting an issues conference;
9. Producing the CSU Retirement Policies and Practices Handbook;
10. Offering to potential retirees a financial analysis of retirement benefits under PERS and also the FERP option;
11. Creating a CSU-ERFA home page on the World Wide Web;
12. Developing an e-mail Internet connection with the Northridge office.

Along the way, we reconstructed the organization, appointed fully functioning committees, created the position of association archivist, created the honorary membership

Pres. Maurer's First Message

In each issue of the *Reporter* Emmett Long, now past president, brought you up to date on the state of the association. I simply want you to know that I am committed to continue the thrust of the association as it seeks to protect your retirement benefits, responds to your individual problems, and acts to preserve the academic community to which you and I devoted our energies and our time.

CSU-ERFA has a membership of almost half of the more than 6,000 CSU retired members of the faculty and staff. To inform you of our efforts to serve you, CSU-ERFA has prepared a list of "The Accomplishments on Behalf of the Retired Faculty," which you can obtain from your chapter president or from the CSU-ERFA office in Northridge. I urge you to read about the many accomplishments of your association. I am sure you will be as proud of our efforts as I am.

As I become your fifth president I want you to know that I will try to live up to the accomplishments of my predecessors. In all honesty, however, I must confess that I do not measure up to my most immediate predecessors. For some reason, and I am sure that the fault is my own, I seem to have kept all my hair on top of my head and not let it grow down on the front of my face. In this respect, I suppose, I am returning to those earlier times when the presidents presented their honest, bald-chinned faces to the members of the association.

I am pleased to be able to serve you.

—**Robert Maurer**, rmaurer@ecst.csuchico.edu

category, provided a paid executive director to work with the office staff, upgraded office equipment, and expanded and improved the newsletter.

My thanks go to the staff: Robert Kully, executive director; Linda Zimmerman, office manager; Alice Ong and LaTisha Calhoun, administrative assistants. Thanks also to a host of officers and chairs: Milt Dobkin, immediate past president; Robert Maurer, vice president; C. Dale Johnson, secretary; Edwin Bartenstein and Sol Buchalter, treasurers; Corwin Bjonerud and Max Norton, members of the executive committee; Hal Jackson, chair, dispersed membership committee; Elizabeth Brady, chair, membership committee; *Reporter* editor Ralph Bigelow; Wilma Krebs, chair legislative committee; Herb Rutemiller, chair retirement concerns committee; Archivist John Houk; Bernice Biggs, Kurt Bohnsack, Mary Gormly, William Gustafson, Eleanor Price, Hank Peterson, Lester Roth, James Ryan, delegates-at-large; and Liaisons Sidney Albert (AAUP), Don Moore (CFA), and Len Mathy, (CSU Senate).

—**Emmett Long**

Academic Senate Report

Leaders at the University of California and the CSU are discussing the creation of a new compact or partnership with the state to deal with coming enrollment demand. Future funding may be linked in part to per capita California income. The current compact calls for a four percent increase in general funding over the next two years. The Governor has also agreed to provide funds to avoid a student fee increase in 1997-98.

Additional funding for study and development of the "Virtual University" has been provided by the Governor's office and discussions relating to the CSU Virtual University have continued the trend of viewing this approach as a way to enhance distributed teaching and learning of all kinds that might be offered by CSU campuses.

Chancellor Barry Munitz, in his appearance before the senate, was optimistic about the negotiations now underway in Sacramento on the CSU budget for 1997-98 and beyond.

Depending upon the outcomes of the negotiations, some progress may be achieved in closing the salary gap between the CSU and comparison institutions. The chancellor also addressed many questions relating to problems of decentralization, staff replacements, entry requirements for students, presidential search committees, merit pay, and the salary gap.

Senate Chair James Highsmith indicated that the acceptance by Molly Broad, vice chancellor for academic affairs, of the presidency of the University of North Carolina, and the earlier retirement of June Cooper, "are cause for reexamining the organization of the system's senior leadership."

Senate Discussions and Actions

Once again the senate and its committees devoted much of the plenary sessions to the Cornerstones Project

(restudy of the baccalaureate). Both the faculty affairs and the academic affairs committees were very critical of the recent draft report.

The faculty affairs committee attacked the syntax and grammatical problems and recommended deletion of many portions of the report. The academic affairs committee also offered several criticisms including: (1) promises of decentralization struggle with implied centralization throughout the document, and (2) Cornerstones postulates a contradictory absolute: no change in access, no change in quality; reduced levels of funding.

The senate reserved a progress report from the Merit Pay Task Force authorized at its plenary session in January 1997. The report states: "We reviewed and debated a number of alternative models of merit pay and developed one principle, the first of several which we hope to recommend: Any merit pay system adopted by the CSU must be understood as being in addition to an adequate base salary for

all faculty, including regular cost of living increases."

Plenary Session Approvals:

The senate approved a number of housekeeping resolutions, postponed action of recommending revisions in admission requirements, urged campuses to study the ratio of temporary to tenure-track faculty, and recommended budget priority rankings for 1998-89: 1) close the CPEC compensation gap within three years; 2) develop multiyear strategies for the management of anticipated enrollment growth; and 3) increase resources for student financial aid.

Election of Officers

James Highsmith (Fresno), reelected chair; Marshall Thobaden (Humboldt), reelected vice chair; Walter Oliver (San Bernardino), elected secretary; and Judith Stanley (Hayward) and Gene Dinelli (Long Beach) were elected as members at large.

—Len Mathy

Cornerstones—cont. from p.1

The report goes on: "Cornerstones is . . . not a debate about the fundamental premises of the California State University," but begins with four fundamental commitments or priorities:

- We must continue to provide educational excellence in a teaching-centered, collegiate institution.
- We must provide access for the growing population needing higher education in California, without sacrificing excellence and with a public resource base that is not growing as rapidly as demand.
- We must be able to show ourselves and others evidence about our effectiveness, thus demonstrating our accountability to the public that we serve.
- We must learn how to link more efficiently and effectively our post-

baccalaureate programs to the rapidly changing needs of our state for highly trained professionals.

Analysts have projected that by 2010 the CSU faces an enrollment growth of 100,000 full-time-equivalent enrollments. At the same time, through a series of constitutional initiatives over the past 20 years, the Legislature has diminished control over spending and encounters a permanent imbalance between general fund revenue and demands for new program spending. Thus a major planning effort for the California State University—*Cornerstones*.

For further information about the project, write Cornerstones, 400 Golden Shores, Suite 316, Long Beach, CA 90802, or visit the Web site at <http://www/co/calstate.edu/aa/Cornerstones/>.

[Adapted from CSU publications]

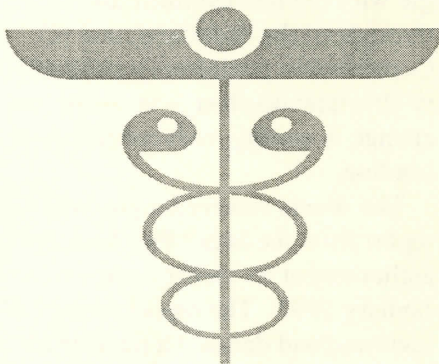
Health Benefits Report

CSU-ERFA HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE appointed at State Council: Jim Ryan, Len Mathy, Les Roth, Jerry Beamish, and Wilma Krebs (acting chair). Many new developments in the health care arena and proposed changes in PERS health plans could impact CSU-ERFA members, both in and out of state. The committee will be charged with helping to develop positions with advice from members. Several members have written expressing opinions and insights as health plan users. These have been valuable in discussions with PERS staff and board members.

HEARING AIDS have been added to the Basic and Supplement to Medicare HMOs, PERSCare Basic, PERSChoice Basic and Supplement to Medicare plans, as of 1 January 1998. The Medicare HMOs added this coverage as of 1 January 1997. The PERSCare Supplement to Medicare already had this benefit. In an HMO, you should get the hearing test and take a copy of the results to the designated dispensing audiologist.

REPORT FROM THE PERS HEALTH BENEFITS CONSTITUENT GROUP on future planning. This group has been meeting monthly since January, including one

session with the PERS Board. The original thrust was to explore ways to maintain the viability of the self-funded plans, PERSCare and PERSChoice, but expanded to include HMO quality and other issues: How to better serve out-of-state and rural area members, and how to keep the premiums affordable. Possible new health plan options are being discussed:



(1) *Maintain the status quo.* Renegotiate PERSCare and PERSChoice, try to make administrative savings, and try to make the existing networks work better.

(2) *Add an Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO).* This would be a PERS "private label" HMO, either self-funded or contractual, that PERS would manage as a benchmark program, supporting quality outcomes. It would be an alternative to commercial HMOs, if needed, and could have a

national network. There could be administrative savings.

(3) *Add One or More Point-of-Service Options to Existing HMOs.* This allows the member to receive most benefits in Tier I, the HMO. The member could choose to go out of the HMO network of providers for service in a Tier II group of Preferred Providers, for perhaps a co-payment of 20 percent. It would be possible to have a Tier III, allowing the member to choose any provider, for a higher co-payment of, say, 40 percent. This would help to maintain freedom of choice, but still keep the costs down for most ordinary services. A national network is possible,

(4) *Add a PERS EPO with Point-of-Service Options* that would resemble PERSCare and PERSChoice using the state PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) and perhaps access to other providers as well. Keeps freedom of choice, quality care.

(5) *Use Risk-Adjustment.* Could spread the risk of getting older and sicker over all health plans, helping to preserve the open-choice options like PERSCare and PERSChoice, which are valued by many HMO members, in case at some point their health situation makes this a desirable option.

—Wilma Krebs

For-Profit Hospitals Costlier, Less Efficient

A special article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* is the first national study of data concerning the way hospitals spend their money. It finds that for-profit hospitals are costlier and less efficient than public or nonprofit hospitals, that hospital paperwork costs are rising and that for-profit hospitals spend less on patient care than not-for-profit ones. The data, covering 6,227 US hospitals, were obtained from the US Health Care Financing Administration.

Paperwork costs per general hospital stay averaged \$2,289 at for-profits, versus \$1,809 at nonprofits, and \$1,432 at public hospitals, and these figures exclude hospital profits.

Administration consumed 34.0 percent of the budget at for-profit hospitals, 24.5 percent at nonprofits, and 22.9 percent at public facilities. Costs jumped sharply when nonprofit and public hospitals were purchased by for-profits.

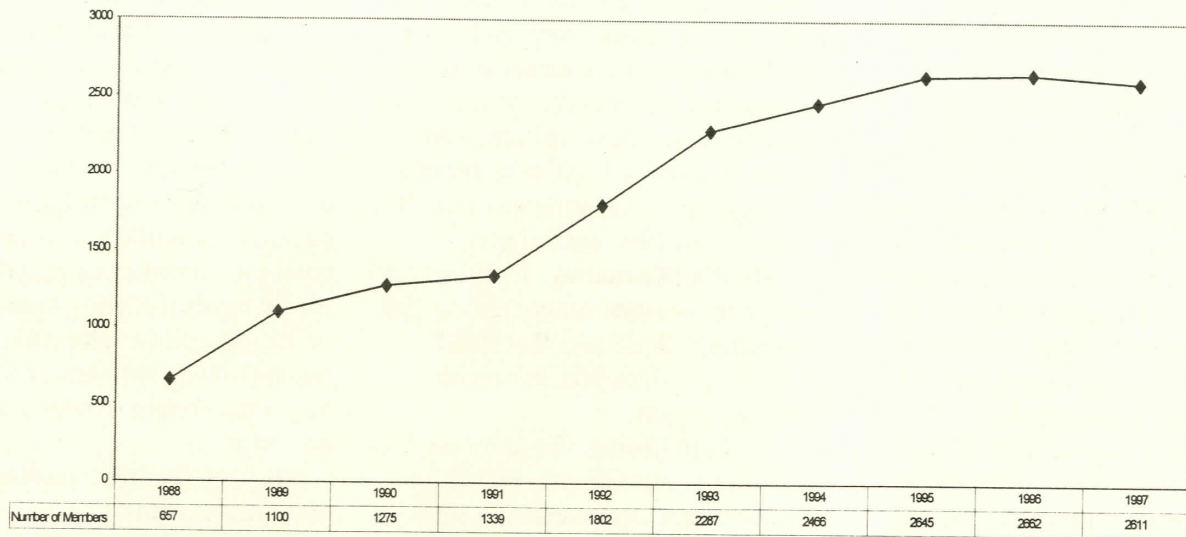
[From the *Health Letter*, Public Citizen Health Research Group, April 1997]

Old and ready to learn
is always young.

—Aeschylus

The Growth of CSU-ERFA

Number of CSU-ERFA Members



The chart above shows that membership in CSU-ERFA has grown from 657 in 1988 to the current membership of 2,611, or not quite half of the number of CSU retirees eligible for membership.

The peak-year figures were inadvertently overreported by including those who had not renewed their memberships. The data for 1997 reflect accurate, paid-up memberships.

In Memoriam

Charlene Smith, Fresno
Allan W. McDonald, Fullerton
Norman R. Cory, Hayward
William C. Lawton, Hayward
Ilie J. Smultea, Humboldt
Donald B. Kinstler, Los Angeles
John Townley, Los Angeles
C. Virgil Metzler, Northridge
Tom J. Tramel, Northridge
Ruthanna Davis, Pomona
Rodney J. Simard, San Bernardino
Paul Bruce, San Diego

Ned V. Joy, San Diego
Robert D. Rowe, San Diego
Lloyd A. Walker, San Diego
Georgie L. Abel, San Francisco
Robert Berrend, San Francisco
Mary T. Shepardson, San Francisco
Harry O. Anderson, San Jose
James O. Wood, San Jose
Roger S. Bailey, San Luis Obispo
William J. Frazer, Sonoma
Theodore Grivas, Sonoma
Carla M. Crippen, Stanislaus

Legislative Actions of Interest...

SB 234 (Hughes). Would guarantee purchasing power of retirement allowance; would be maintained at 75 percent of original purchasing power. In Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file, to be considered after budget is passed.

AB 981 (Wildman). Would grant cost-of-living increase to retirees or survivors of those who retired or died after 1980, on a sliding scale of five percent for 1981 to one percent for 1989. Amended to include the CSU. In Assembly Appropriations.

Among the large number of health plan reform measures reviewed by the PERS Health Benefits Committee and Board of Administration on June 17-18:

AB 794 (Figueroa). Provides that only a doctor with a California medical license who has examined the patient may make a decision which results in the denial of medical care. Passed Assembly into the Senate. PERS neutral if amended.

AB 1100 (Thomson and Perata). Provides for treatment of mental illness under same terms and conditions as other medical conditions. (Similar to the Federal Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, P.L. 104-24, effective 1 January 1998, but which exempts plans from compliance if result is cost increase of one percent or more). The bill was amended to restrict to biologically-based severe mental illnesses and serious emotional disturbances of children. PERS neutral. Now in the Senate.

AB 974 (Gallegos). Prohibits limiting prescription coverage to a formulary if the nonformulary drug was previously approved as part of a regimen. PERS adopted neutral position on this bill, but an oppose position on **AB 1333 (Martinez)**, which would prohibit restricting prescription medicines to a formulary. Both bills passed Assembly into Senate.

AB 38 (Figueroa). Requires health plans to provide 48 hours of hospital care after a vaginal birth and 96 hours after a Caesarian section. If doctor and patient agree to an earlier discharge, a follow-up home visit must be provided. After member testimony, PERS supports this bill. It is similar to a 1996 federal act.

SB 296 (Karnette). Requires coverage for prostate cancer testing and screening. Staff says that PERS already provides this, but recommends support.

SB 1220 (Solis). Requires health plans to cover diabetes, including medications, equipment and supplies. PERS staff observes that PERS provides almost all of the items and recommends changing from a neutral position to support. Still in the Assembly.

SB 330 (Rosenthal). Defines regulatory requirements for health plan

mergers, such as review by the Attorney General's office to determine that there is not a harmful restriction of competition, tending to monopolization. Passed Senate into Assembly. PERS adopted a neutral position.

SB 1129 (Sher). Requires a written policy for continuity of care for person with acute or serious chronic condition, when a change of provider would have an adverse clinical effect on the patient's treatment. Passed Senate into Assembly. PERS adopted a support position, if amended.

SB 1020 (Schiff). Authorizes 1937 Act counties to establish their own self-funded long-term care plans. (L.A. County is only one with a plan—for retirees only). PERS adopted a neutral position. •

—Wilma Krebs

News from CSU-ERFA

Max Norton (Stanislaus), chair of the endowment committee, tells us that campus affiliates will be surveyed soon about the proposed CSU-ERFA Educational Endowment Fund. See the January 1997 issue of the *Reporter*, page 3, for details.

Herb Rutemiller (Fullerton), 1996-97 chair of the retirement concerns committee, presented a report at the State Council meeting summarizing CSU campus policies concerning the rights and privileges of emeriti. Each campus represented at the council meeting received a copy.

CSU-ERFA Archivist John Houk has developed a tentative list of categories of documents "essential to the character and growth of the association and its legal obligations" to comprise the archives.

The categories include the charter and charter revisions, profiles of all officers and State Council members,

agendas and minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and State Council, treasurer's reports, tax status files, newsletters, selective correspondence, and Founding President Sid Albert's personal CSU-ERFA file.



Reneé Caggiano is the new administrative assistant in the Northridge office, replacing LaTisha Calhoun. Mrs. Caggiano moved recently to the area, accompanying her husband who joined the California Highway Patrol.

The CSU-ERFA office will soon move to new quarters on the CSU Northridge campus. Call (818) 718-7996 before visiting to get directions. •

We get mail—

Thanks for the excellent *Reporter* . . . I'd appreciate some more coverage of two topics of personal concern. First, as a 1992 "Golden Handshake" retiree, I wonder if any further efforts are being made to challenge the restriction on working for the CSU. Second, a lot of us would appreciate an analysis of the pros and cons of long-term care insurance, and, if possible, a comparison between the PERS program and others (e.g., NEA). Thanks.

Kathleen Preston (Humboldt)
KathKnight@aol.com

[Ed. Note: About four years ago, CSU-ERFA secured the agreement of the then chair of the Assembly Public Employees Retirement Committee to carry legislation to remove the restriction on 1992 retirees. With the 1994 election, that assemblyman no longer served as chair and the 1994 chair would not consider our proposal. We have reason to believe the members of the 1996 legislative committee will be more

receptive to amend or delete the restrictions. The *Reporter* will carry an announcement, if and when.]

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Like getting [the *Reporter*] and all the news . . . Agree with Professors Huttman in their opposition to optional retirement accounts for the reasons they list plus the fact that the stock market is not a reliable straight line gainer and many people do not yet realize that fact of life. In fact, their stock market account can be in miserable shape at the time they want to retire.

Regarding HMOs: am very pleased with continued vigilance regarding service and care provided. Latest bit of info about Kaiser that you may want to look into is the appointment-making system . . . I have written to Kaiser about my dissatisfaction with that system, but some more powerful message from PERS and ERFA might have more clout.

Georgia Babladelis
Prof. Emerita

[Executive Director Robert Kully's response, in part, "I will write the Kaiser North Member services office . . . expressing our concern about how one of our members has been treated."]

.....

Since [we] moved to Central California I have been attempting to get connected to do some part-time teaching at local junior colleges, extension courses, etc., only to be told by Fresno PERS office . . . that such employment was expressly forbidden by Bill 1522. I fit that category neatly. . . . Now, nearly four years later, I learn from the *Reporter* that I could have had those years as earnings, if I had known! If I can once more build up a head of teaching steam, what can I expect from PERS? Would appreciate any clarification you can send along.

Fenton (Cal) Calhoun (Fullerton)
acfc@sierranet.net

[Executive Director Robert Kully wrote to Prof. Calhoun, and said, in part ". . . the

information you received from the Fresno PERS office should win an award for the most absurd interpretation of the law I have heard. . . My advice is to call the Fresno PERS office again and ask the same questions. If you get the same answers, please get the name(s) and call me as soon as possible. . . I am sorry you lost four years of teaching. . . [Y]ou were given gross misinformation."

.....

What is the status of 1992 retirees who would like to teach for extended education, for pay? Under these circumstances the retiree would be engaged in an activity which has no connection to PERS and it would seem that they are not covered by the provisions of 1552. I've heard a variety of interpretations but no one seems sure.

Delmo Della-Dora
D3ND@aol.com

[Executive Director Kully responded: ". . . my answer is . . . a somewhat educated guess. . . I do not think teaching in Extension for pay is permitted within the provision of the law. I will also repeat that my answer is my interpretation. . . You are quite right about the confusing interpretations of the law. . . There is only one way to get this badly confused situation under control and that is to get the restrictions in AB 1552 eliminated." (CSU-ERFA is working on that.)]

.....

Thanks for the very clear graphs on page 7 [April issue--on remediation] of the *Reporter*. They made the size of the problem clearer to me than ever before. I never tuned into the problem while I was active, and now I wish I had. I used to teach elementary statistics. . . The reason I am responding is because I (along with Prof. Frank Hovell) used a programmed textbook with great success, i.e., small instructional cost and good results. Now I wonder if they are using this approach in the remedial teaching. It might be a good idea.

Jerry Podell, Emeritus
Prof. of Psychology, SFSU
jpodell@netvista.net

Note: Mail from members welcome!

CSU-ERFA on the Internet

Hal Jackson, chair of the dispersed membership committee, reports that he has received 78 responses to the questionnaire he distributed. He asks that all who have not sent their responses to him to please do so. He appreciates those who responded by e-mail as he can send results without cost to CSU-ERFA.

He asks further that members assist the CSU-ERFA office in developing an e-mail directory of members. If you have access to e-mail, please send a brief message to

csuerfa@csun.edu

giving your e-mail address. Also, if you have a FAX number, please include that too.

Hal also is thinking of the possibilities of a listserv [that's netspeak for a popular means of exchanging information and ideas. Ed.] for those on the Net. And he reports the CSU-ERFA Web site will soon be "browserable."•

News About, From, and For Members...

Milt Dobkin (Humboldt) has been elected chair of the retired faculty committee of CFA and **Henry "Hank" Peterson** (Chico) as representative to the Assembly. The election, conducted by mail ballot from the retired CFA membership, was announced at the Spring Assembly of CFA.

Dobkin had been serving as representative of CFA retirees to the Assembly, while Peterson had previously served as chair of the retired faculty committee.

As committee chair, Dobkin will hold a voting position on the CFA Board of Directors starting July 1997. He is also expected to serve as chair of the CFA member benefits committee.

The committee on retired faculty of CFA most recently had as members: **Don Moore** (Los Angeles), **Bill Smith** (Pomona), and **Bill Schlosser** (Northridge), all of whom are CSU-ERFA members. With Peterson as chair several initiatives were undertaken to coordinate CSU-ERFA and CFA efforts when shared interests were identified.

Dobkin has said he expects to follow on CSU-ERFA Executive Director **Robert Kully's** efforts to obtain favorable CFA and CSU action on enhancing dental benefits for CSU Unit 3 retirees.



Robert K. Gronendyke, professor emeritus of art, Sonoma, recently returned from a junket to southwest Florida where he participated in a combined Elderhostel and Habitat for Humanity project. About thirty volunteers converged on the site for two weeks where they constructed, from the ground up, a finished three bedroom, 1,200 square foot house for a needy family. The house was the 148th such home built by Habitat in Lee County and the first to use Elderhostel resources. Ages of the participants ranged from 62 to 85, and included those with many, some, or no previous building skills.

Notwithstanding the dispensing of a few Band-Aids here and there, along with some after hours use of our residence's spas, pools and massage opportunities, this first-ever pairing of Habitat for Humanity and Elderhostel appeared to be highly successful. The organizers of Elderhostel are to be congratulated for this creative concept now employed in the service programs aspect of their splendid educational opportunities for seniors. [Ed. Note: Prof. Gronendyke is CEO of the ERFA chapter at Sonoma.]



Members are reminded that through the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association they are eligible for a special low rate on a Quest card that gives a 50 percent discount on room rates at over 2,000 hotel and motels, plus a 25 percent discount at

participating restaurants, and up to \$100 off on Northwest Airlines.

The regular fee to join Quest is \$99. However, CSU-ERFA has arranged for its members to pay only \$29 per year for their Quest membership. Members report that using the card at a hotel or motel just once or twice a year pays for the annual fee. If used several times, it can save hundreds of dollars.

For more information or to request a Quest directory, which lists the participating hotels and restaurants, please call the CSU-ERFA office—(818) 718-7996.

[—Staff]

From Affiliate Newsletters...

FROM ARF NOTES (Northridge), Fred McMahon, editor—It's party time at the Northridge campus on Sept. 8 as the emeriti join their colleagues to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the campus. And on Sept. 11, many of those who took part in the original flag raising ceremony that signaled the opening of San Fernando Valley State College will recreate their roles.

FROM THE SILVER BULLETIN (Sacramento), Alan D. Wade, editor—The campus will have the kick-off on Sept. 24 to the year-long celebration of 50 years of service to the Sacramento region. The theme for the anniversary year is *Five Decades of Achievement: Golden Tradition, Golden Promise*.

FROM POST SCRIPT (San Diego), M.S. Bigelow, editor—The "Pieces from the Past" series includes a look back to June 6, 1963, when the then San Diego State College awarded an honorary doctorate—the first—to President John F. Kennedy. Months of planning the commencement ceremony had to be changed within three weeks to accommodate the event.

And—the *Reporter* editor cannot resist reprinting something from his like-named editor's "Pun Corner":

A native chief suffering from stomach pains ordered the medicine man to cure him. The shaman took a thong of hide and advised the chief to chew and swallow a bit of the leather every day for 30 days.

After the 30 days the chief was asked how he was feeling. He replied, "The thong is ended but the malady lingers on."



News from CalPERS...

THE CALPERS MEMBER HOME LOAN PROGRAM ON THE INTERNET. The CalPERS home loan program can now provide, through the Internet, information on benefits to purchase or refinance a home. The Web site address is www.calpers.ca.gov/homeloan.

The Web site discusses in detail the following:

- What is the CalPERS member home loan program and who is eligible?
- Advantages of the program
- Loan types, qualifying, refinances
- 100% financing program
- Alternatives to 100% financing
- Community home buyer's program; first-time home buyers
- Closing costs—what will they be and how to pay for them
- \$2,500 CRA grant (certain restrictions apply)
- New developments
- How to get started

Further, the Web site provides an opportunity to access an approved CalPERS lender to get prequalified, provide interest rates, current questions, and send e-mail for further questions.

THE CALPERS WEB SITE has been expanded and now includes information such as global corporate governance principles, financial planning seminars, listings of contracting agencies, and member training services.

Information about retirement and health benefits, employer services, investments, and other information was posted to the site earlier.

THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUND has reached an all-time high. As of the end of May, the fund's chief investment officer reported the portfolio was valued at approximately \$113 billion, an increase of \$5 billion from March. •

The Pension Fund Recoups

The California Supreme Court has ruled the state must return \$1.36 billion into the public employee pension fund to cover money illegally diverted in 1992 and 1993 to balance California's operating budget. The chief counsel of the Department of Finance has said no appeal of the 6-0 decision is possible.

A spokesperson for PERS called the Supreme Court's vote "a significant vindication of (PERS') long-held position" that the delay in payments was "inappropriate."

—from the *Sacramento Bee*

Seniors on the Net

A growing number of senior citizens are now surfing the World Wide Web, shedding the stereotype of how retired people spend their time.

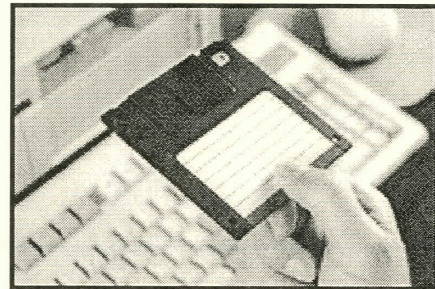
According to a SeniorNet survey, 30 percent of people over 55 now own computers and log on, primarily for e-mail correspondence with grandchildren, investment analysis and management, and genealogy.

Computer classes and workshops are now offered at many retirement centers, community colleges, recreation departments, and PC users' groups.

For further information, and a link to SeniorNet, visit the Web site for the Continuing Learning Experience at CSU Fullerton at

<http://www.pop1.fullerton.edu:1000/~cle/> •

—from the *Orange County Register*



Editorial: But Where's the Bedrock?

The metaphor of "cornerstones" conveys the meaning of building upon a foundation. But the first sentence of the introductory chapter on the principles of "Cornerstones: Planning for the Next Decade," suggests the architects are using an unexamined foundation. To quote:

The future of the California State University must be grounded in our best judgment of what the State of California will need into the next century.

The history of the 20th century tells us what catastrophes humankind will encounter when the institutions of society have as their aim service to the state. The United States in mid-century received many scholars unwilling to abandon their freedom to seek the truth and instead serve the state. Is it now the university's purpose to prepare the technocrats the corporate state demands?

In the body of the report one can find hints of a better perspective by stressing the need for graduates to read analytically and think critically. That seems to be a good place to start—by reading and thinking about purposes, even if it means examining the basic premises of the university. Perhaps we can find the bedrock. •

[RB]

Welcome to New Members

Paul A. Luker, Chico
Heebok Park, Hayward
Marc L. Ratner, Hayward
E. Kenneth Bennett, Dominguez Hills
Gerald Larson, Sacramento
Jon S. Galehouse, San Francisco



CFA to Vote on Settlement with CSU

Faculty are being asked to vote on a settlement between CSU and the California Faculty Association, we have learned as we go to press.

According to a news release from a CFA chapter, the settlement is much closer to CSU's original position than to CFA's, and leaves unaddressed the issues of the CPEC-measured salary gap, the needs of newer faculty, and the problems of the PSSI program.

A "No" vote, which some in CFA recommend, sends a message "that we faculty are serious about our issues and concerns, both economic and non-economic."

A "Yes" vote, which CFA President Terry Jones recommends, will bring a pay raise on July 1 of approximately 2.5 percent. Junior faculty and lecturers will also receive an additional 2.4 percent step on the salary schedule, if eligible.

Thirty-five percent of the CFA membership must vote, and a majority of those voting must agree to ratify the agreement for the new contract to become effective. •

Sources: CSU Office Memo; SFSU California Faculty Association

California State University
Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association
The Retiree Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, California 91330-8339

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