Assembly bill could restore funds, fees
That feeling of déjà vu

By ROBB LIGHTFOOT

There is renewed hope that the $105,000 cut off the state's 206 community colleges will be restored. Leaders of both parties have been moving toward a compromise which could involve passage of a bill, AB 207, to restore the funds and institute tuition.

AB 207 would do the work of AB 150, the bill to reopen community college funds which was vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian, and AB 407, the tuition bill vetoed by the governor.

In fact, AB 207 nearly identical to AB 150 and AB 407 in effect, but AB 207 was held up in the Senate's Ways and Means Committee while legislators battled over the other bills. Now that the governor has vetoed AB 207, AB 207 is the simplest way of restoring the $105,000 million.

Since AB 207 passed the Senate before being pigeonholed in the Assembly, the Assembly, and the Senate, would have to reenact to place the bill on the governor's desk.

As AB 207 also would include the three percent present of living allowance that was part of AB 470. This would add another $5 million to the community colleges' appropriations, bringing them to $118.5 million.

Both local accrediting systems called AB 207, but Rogers, assemblyman for the 2nd district, says that "all Republicans" would vote for the bill, she feels that AB 207 is the "intestine" to the community college budget vote.

Philip Vemas, assemblyman for the 34th district, voted for AB 207, as did AB 207, in a recent session of the Assembly, "but it's a real obligation to be to the people vote on it. (AB 207)."

Brown withdrew his support from AB 207 when AB 207 was the same measure during a key vote, and the measure died. Vemas says that Brown managed to keep a few meetings from voting. Louisiana Brown wanted a "sunset" provision inserted in any bill requiring tuition.

Although tuition would repay to automatically expire at a specified date. This could make atia-

tion temporary.

(Editors Note: At press time, Willie Brown, speaker of the Assembly, appears to have changed his position. He might now support a temporary bill. In fact, Brown has promised the governor make a temporary loan to community colleges while a study of their finances is made.

Brown extended the governor may not have the authority to make such a loan, but offered to reconsider "at the time" to give Deukmejian that power,"

Brown's sunset demands could stall the full-jacketed voting package of AB 207. Deukmejian has said that he would "talk about" something sometime in January, but the hearings must be held before that time to bail out the community colleges.

Sunsetting can not be incor-

porated into AB 207 without chang-

ing the bill and it now stands. But any changes in AB 207 would force the Senate to reconsider to approve them.

Once Oct. 2, passes, any legis-

lature passed will take a two-thirds vote instead of a simple majority. Brown feels that if something is al-

ready in the bill, Brown might be re-

spond on other issues. This, along with the possible delays, could make AB 207's passage uncertain. Rogers' expressed concerns about something. He bases feeling that as a part of the law until the state has more money. Then, says Rogers, the legislature could act to formalize tuition.

The issue of community college fee and tuition is a complicated, current issue and one of the most complex issues facing the state legislature. The fees and tuition are a part of the budget and are subject to the governor's veto. The fees and tuition are used to fund the community colleges and are a part of the state's budget. The fees and tuition are used to fund the community colleges and are a part of the state's budget.

Newest techniques taught

Fire Tech courses offered

By BRENT RAY

"The Fire Tech program is actually two programs in one," says Jackie Fisher, director of the program. "We are here to give the students interested in a career as a firefighter the skills needed to go to a fire college or to transfer to a four year college, also to give the veteran firefighter a chance to learn the newest techniques and upgrade their existing skills." The classes are taken advantage of, says Fisher. Most of the county's full-time firefighters take the class every two years to refresh the basics of their trade.

"The classes do not delve into the physical aspects of firefighting and contain no hands-on experience but may within the general necessarily of the men's work," said Fisher. The classes are structured as course topics. They involve mostly book work and lecture time. In the category of fire technology, they are six courses building construction safety codes, fire prevention, emergency systems, sprinkler systems and a class that covers all aspects of firefighting. Also offered to the fire technology student is the Kern County Fire Department is the Kern County Fire Program which consists of summer employment for students. "It's a series of men's and women's courses and the applicants must pass a written exam before they can be enrolled.

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(See FIRE TECH page 2)

SCOTT RICE / Dip Staff

Octoberfest begins today

By GAIL WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

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