Emergency worries top Diablo hearing agenda

BY SHARYN SEARS  Staff Writer

The function of pressure heaters and power-operated relief valves during an emergency at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant topped the agenda at the first full-power testing license hearing Tuesday in Avila Beach.

Among those representing Pacific Gas and Electric Company were members of the consulting team that has been working on the reclassification program since the firm's low-power testing license was suspended last November.

During a discussion over operating procedure, project engineer John Houch said that in an emergency where the pressure heaters malfunctioned, the actions of the plant operator "would be committed to memory." If the pressure heater malfunctioned, it would switch from automatic to manual control, Houch said. If the manual control effort proved uncessful, the operator would have to refer to the operating procedure manual and proceed to do a cold shutdown, he said.

Wrong Classification

The pressure monitors are not classified under what PG&E calls "safety grade" equipment. In behalf of the opposition, Herbert Brown, attorney for Gov. Edmund Brown Jr., asked why the plant's emergency procedures would have to refer to people or the environment, according to Cal Poly's environmental health and safety officer.

"The cabling systems between the system's pressure heaters would have to be upgraded to safety grade," a PG&E spokesman said. "To upgrade them would require considerable effort." Equipment is labeled "safety grade" if its malfunction would cause an accident if it or its function is instrumental in an emergency situation, according to PG&E definition.

The dump site was once used by various campus emergency programs since the firm's low-power testing license was suspended in November.

"The board was concerned primarily with the sections of the plan that have no detailed procedure for emergency situations." said the board's chairman.

"Equipment is labeled "safety grade" if its malfunction would cause an accident or if its function is instrumental in an emergency situation, according to PG&E definition.

BY TWYLLE THOMAS  Staff Writer

Amid public opposition to its approval, the Board of Supervisors passed the county draft emergency disaster preparedness plan Monday night meeting by a 3-2 vote.

Supervisors Kurt Kupper and Jeff Jorgensen voted against approval of the plan, while Howard Mankins, Jerry Diefenderfer and Steve MacElvaine voted in favor of it.

According to MacElvaine, the plan was given back to a consultant who would make revisions in it before the board approves the final version.

There is no specified due date for completion of the plan.

The central issues discussed at the meeting were the lack of specific evacuation plans if there is a nuclear accident at Diablo Canyon, consequences of possible earthquake damage to Diablo, how to inform the public if a disaster occurs and the lack of concrete disaster plans for surrounding cities and Cal Poly.

MacElvaine said the board was concerned with the sections of the plan that have no detailed procedure for emergency situations. He cited a "lack of coordination with other agencies" as a cause for the weaknesses in the plan and noted that the "higher echelons" were at fault for not making the plan more specific.

Unnecessary Study

Jorgensen said possible earthquake damage to Diablo should be determined before the plan is finalized, but MacElvaine claimed a $250,000 study to determine if an earthquake will destroy roads was unnecessary.

MacElvaine based his contention on Pacific Gas and Electric Co. studies that showed the Hogri fault, which is 2.5 miles from Diablo, would not cause a severe enough quake to obliterate roads within a 10-mile radius of the plant.

Representatives from the League of Women Voters said they wanted public notification if there was an "alert stage" at the nuclear power plant, but this was disputed because alert status at Diablo Canyon could include things other than a nuclear accident.

For instance, a plane that runs out of gas and lands near Diablo would set an alert status in motion.

The Office of Emergency Services has the responsibility to alert the public in case of disaster, said MacElvaine, so sirens aren't necessary in motion.

A major shortcoming in the plan, lack of detailed evacuation procedures, was discussed since many of the cities in the 20-mile radius of the plant lack concrete disaster plans for situations other than an accident at Diablo Canyon, since other disasters could occur.

Music major being considered at Poly

BY NANCY LEWIS  Staff Writer

A proposed music major is currently being reviewed by the Curriculum Committee of the Academic Senate and may be instituted as part of the campus curriculum, according to the head of Poly's Music Department.

Bessie Swanson said that although the proposal was made only last month, she hopes a major would be implemented because "it is valuable to the university.

A bachelor of arts degree would be offered if the major is adopted.

"By definition, a university is an institution of higher education where students, in addition to specialized studies in a particular professional field, should expect to enhance their preparation for life as educated persons," she said. "The objective is achieved by participating as a member of a campus community that includes the intellectual, social and aesthetic elements of an educated society, as well as by enrolling in courses appropriate to the student's interest and ability.

In order for the Music Department to keep up its quality group performances, students are needed who can devote a lot of time to their music, according to Swanson.

"This isn't to say that students in other disciplines can't perform," said Swan son.

But she feels that a major in music would make it easier for students who are interested in music to perform with various campus groups.

Because there is no music major, students who want to participate in the various performing groups on campus must do so along with their other classes.

"According to Swan son, the limited participation, because pressures in other classes keep students from pursuing their musical interests, in the cultural component of the campus needs to be developed, and can with a music major on campus," said Swanson.

A major in music at Cal Poly is valuable because there is no school within a 100-mile radius where students in the area can get a degree in music, said Swanson.

The site of what was formerly the Poly Canyon trash dump, where toxic materials were once taken, is shown here with the Dairy Unit in the foreground.

Toxic waste site now "no problem"

BY SHARON REZAK  Staff Writer

A once potentially dangerous toxic waste dump in Poly Canyon now poses "no particular problem" to people or the environment, according to Cal Poly's environmental health and safety officer.

Donald Van Acker said a number of chemicals were found disposed in the area in 1975, such as metals and acids which he said could "leach into the ground water, or a creek " and threaten the city's drinking water. Not only could people's health be harmed by this, but the plant life in Poly Canyon would be hurt by the strong acidic, he said.

The dump site was once used by various campus departments and personnel, and was open to the general public from the early 1970's until about 1976. No records were kept of what went into the facility, Van Acker said.

Last summer, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the state Health and Environmental Health Boards conducted tests at the dumpsite. The boards found the environment "stable and without leaching problems," according to Van Acker.

He said water testing is still being conducted in the area by the Water Quality Control Board. The board had to wait for a heavy rain season for the water level to be high enough to have accurate tests. Van Acker said the results should be in his office within a couple of months.
School blast kills 6, injures 35

SPENCER, Okla. (AP)—A natural gas explosion ripped through a building at an elementary school as it was being evacuated Tuesday, and authorities said six people were killed and 35 injured.

Helicopters were brought into the parking lot of a store across the street from the seventy-brick Veteran Elementary School to airlift the seriously injured to hospitals.

Rescuers and law enforcement officers rushed to the scene of the blast in Spencer, just east of Oklahoma City.

Court okays death penalty

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court refused Tuesday to ban capital punishment for teen-age killers, but told state judges to use more caution in sentencing young murderers to death.

The 5-4 decision left open the question of whether imposing the death penalty on teen-age killers violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment, and therefore would not sentencing young murderers to death.

Emergency functions discussed at Diablo hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Salvage crews hoisted the tail of an Air Florida jetliner from the frigid grime of the Potomac River on Monday, but the achievement turned sour when the crumpled section failed to yield two flight recorders which could unravel the cause of last week's crash.

Investigators were initially exultant when, after battling the frozen river for five days, divers managed to extricate the seafloor under the Boeing 727's tail and lift it from a crane on the bridge overhead.

As the 15-foot section was pulled up, it broke away from parts of the jetliner's fuselage. An Associated Press photographer said he saw one body drop back to the water, as did other.

From page 1

Pressure heaters are normal controlling units and therefore would not be under a safety grade classification, he said.

PG&E established in its testimony that a cold shutdown—when the plant is closed completely—is possible without pressure heaters. The opposition later established that while there may be alternative methods of shutdown, the current operating plan does not discuss any.

In the discussion of the power-operated relief valves at Diablo Canyon, the incident involving valves at Three Mile Island was not the only component that malfunctioned and that inappropriate action taken by a plant operator escalated the accident.

Two make the grade

The four power-operated relief valves at Diablo are safety grade, the other "in some respects is not," said Houch.

If the valves should stick open, it would mean manually closing them, Houch said.

Music major would add culture

Music major would add culture

From page 1

In a survey conducted by the Cal Poly Music Department, 162 college-age students in the area over the past 10 years have either gone to other schools which offer majors in music or gone into other majors because Cal Poly does not offer one in music.

"This campus is a loser in that respect," Swanson added.

In order to implement a music major, the proposal must be approved by the administrative officials, both on campus and at the chancellor's office. Swanson, the curriculum for the music major must also be developed and approved.

A curriculum is also being developed for the proposed major, said Swanson. The music minor that was instituted in the fall helped add some more advanced courses, but the hopes to expand these courses and add others.
Canoeing the Colorado or...being where the rain ain’t during Christmas break

BY ROBIN LEWIS
Outdoor Editor

All sixteen of us sit in the ASI van at the gate leading down to the Colorado River just below Hoover Dam. Black Canyon.

"Okay," says the gray-haired, tight-faced ranger, "I want you people down here and in the river quickly. I don’t have time to stay with you all morning. Down there and in the river, fast." He turns to his car.

"Sieg hall," I say in my head and exchange "Well, nah-nah to him, too" glances with my fellow trip members. Half the group salutes this faceless ranger, "I warrant you people down there and in the river quickly. I don’t expect to stay with you all morning."

Soon everyone is in the water and we turn downstream, we have miles to go before we sleep. We get three hundred yards. I can still see where we put in upriver, but natural hot springs are hard to pass up.

A show-stopping waterfall of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, pools in the rocks, and rain caves where drops of hot and cold water come from the ceiling along stalactites. We find an old water tunnel drilled for the dam that struck hot water of its own. Inside is a sauna, tepid water flowing from the end of the tunnel a hundred feet back.

Hot springs, a sauna and a cool lagoon. I can tell some people are getting the wrong impression of ‘wilderness.’

It is still dusk. I would not know it if I did not look up out of the canyon. In here, it is black already, the cliffs ranging against the deep blue of the sky. Venus is already out.

I sit on an outcropping over the river as it runs black beneath me, no moon to reflect. The lapping of the water against the shore comes up to me. There is a mutation out there, it is felt.

Another rock exploits in the campfire, shooting splinters into the crowd. "I’m moving," someone says for the fourteenth time. Crystal’s tennis shoe catches fire, I watch it with interest for several seconds before pointing the flames out to her. It is now a sandal. Everyone’s knees touch, it is a warm night. I am trying to remember if I go to school and, if I do, where? Is there a world outside of here, past the canoes, the cliffs and the Colorado River? (Now close to losing all pretensions of being anything but the L.A. Canal.)

A running story from amongst the laughter around the campfire:

It starts with a 400-room mansion built on the stormy coast of Maine. It’s proprietor, Big Mama, and a three-hundred-pound client, Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown dumps his thin, blond girlfriend soon after arrival. She returns to New York never to be heard from again. Mr. Brown goes on to have a few scruples with some ghosts, finally seeking help from Mr. Wizard ("Help me!") who sends him back to King Arthur’s time.

But he arrives as a small mouse with wings who wins the Singing Sword and is then trapped in a birdhouse by an enevil look-a-like of Big Mama. She frees him to face the challenge of the Black Knight, whom Mr. Brown, the flying mouse, then beats in a jousting match.

We then jump back to the 400-room mansion which is carried to an imaginary land where lives Harold, the rabbit. This world, actually Oklahoma, descends into nuclear war and total annihilation begins. The Singing Sword rifts through Harold, killing him instantly.

A total reversal of world annihilation, but not Harold’s death, is brought about by Mr. Brown, who is no longer a flying mouse, and the magic of the Singing Sword. Then, Mr. Brown fights a long, final, pitched battle with the spies who have intermittently tried to steal the Singing Sword to aid their world domination. Mr. Brown kills all the spies and the world is safe again.

All this without hallucinogenes.

People are going off to bed. I look up. the fire sprays rock again as the sky across the canyon glows with the rising moon.

The sail pops in the wind as we slice across the chopping water of Lake Mead, my hair whipping around my head. Three canoes are tied together to use a huge plastic tarp tied to canoe paddles and hold up to the wind for a sail.

"Well, someone has to work," says Bob. "This is hard work."

The human mast jolts again with the wind and looks skeletal. But, hell, fifteen miles without paddling...

The sky in the east is barely light. I crunch through the gravel of the desert, scuffing my boots, grinding myself into the dust. Sagebrush against my leg, clean, crisp.

The sky grows lighter, the two of us keep walking toward the mountains of Nevada. Too far away, but a goal, nonetheless. The clouds over Arizona are now shot through with pink, orange spreds across the horizon, the land is rosy, detailed.
Scenes from the river...

The wind is light, not cold, not warm. The Nevada hills in front of us are now topped in red-orange sunlight, lava snow caps. It is getting too light too fast. This is my first dawn outdoors in years, up before the sun.

We sit on a rock and watch the sunrise. There are no pretensions, either by us or the land. There are no lush ferns or carpeting moss, no towering red-woods to block the mountains for the trees. Just hard rock, shards of gravel, cactus, sage. We are only a hundred feet above the level of Lake Mohave (two hundred above the "Colorado River") but we can see down the valley thirty miles.

The plain shoots away from the river and takes off up the mountains, capping with crags, lava red now almost in te valley. The plains look like one could run down them forever, never tiring, dash for the river. Finally, the sun hits our rock, bright in our eyes.

Kids get house in divorce case

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — A judge in northern Michigan has taken an unusual approach in a divorce case, giving three adolescent boys custody of their parents' house while the mother and father alternate month-long visits.

Grand Traverse County Circuit Judge Charles M. Forster granted a divorce on Jan. 6 to Allan and Cheryl Church of Interlochen, a community of 4,000 people 15 miles from Traverse City. Their children — David, 15, Donald, 13 and Dale, 11 — remain at home, while the parents move in and out and pay the bills.

Mrs. Church, a 37-year-old secretary who is spending this month with the children, described the judge's settlement as "a good third option for people who are getting a divorce."

"This way no one loses," she said. The three children all say they are happy about the decision.

"When my dad told me about it, I couldn't believe it," Donald said. "I thought my mom would get us. I'm glad one of the parents wasn't left out."

"The kids love it," said Church, a 42-year-old electrician, who is spending this month at his parents' home after 17 years of marriage. "They (the children) don't have to change schools or change friends, and they can come and visit me after school."

The residence is a few doors away from the house of the father's parents and only a mile or so away from where the mother's parents live.

Forster said his decision was "natural" because both parents testified that the other was a good parent and said the children loved each other.
Building of agriculture bridge begun

BY CINDY BLANCKENBURG

Although a recent Gallup Poll showed Americans to be in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment by a 51 margin, when a representative for the National Organization for Women stopped in San Luis Obispo County, only 23 persons attended the talk.

Ginny Frat, President of the California branch of NOW, gave an update on the ERA at the Arroyo Grande Woman's Community Center Wednesday, Jan. 18 as part of her ERA Mobilization Campaign. The Mobilization Campaign is to prove the "ERA is not dead," she said. Frat said the ERA has only six months to get the ratification effort. There are 15 states that haven't ratified the ERA. Of these 15, eight didn't ratify the ERA Amendment until after 1960. According to Frat, ratification in Florida, Oklahoma, North Carolina and Virginia is possible. In Florida, a state-wide campaign has been put into effect, said Frat. NOW has placed national office staff and down the coast. Last time a vote was taken the ERA was defeated by two votes. This time, Frat said, NOW is taking a different campaign approach. She said NOW has a lot of retired persons. So the campaign is showing that retired women receive only $3,000 a year for Social Security benefits whereas the men receive $5,600. This strategy is causing the retired citizens to heed together, she said. NOW has also established two Hispanic offices where the literature being distributed is in Spanish. "Florida looks the most promising," she said. "They will be voting on the issue very soon at the legislature in session," she said. She's been keeping up a steady vote on Jan. 19, Frat said. "We weren't ready for the vote," she said. The vote came out four short. The campaign there will continue, she said. "We should see another one a couple weeks," she added.

In Illinois, NOW is trying to test the three-fifths rule that was established for the approval of the ERA. She said that there has always been a majority approval, but the "problem has been getting the three-fifths majority." Frat said she is confident that North Carolina will ratify the amendment. The elected Democratic Lieutenant Governor is the deciding vote. She expects when the vote comes up in the next few weeks it will be pro-ERA.

In California, money and support is being raised in an effort to persuade the legislatures of those 15 states to approve the amendment. Frat said California has raised the most money for the NOW organization. Some of the money has gone to sending members to unratified states.

BY STEPHANIE WINN

A team of four architecture and construction students, equipped with bronze shovels and yellow hard hats, initiated construction of a pedestrian bridge Thursday that will lead to the Erhart Agriculture Building at ground breaking ceremonies.

"The project is a tremendous learning experience and provides students with an understanding of the whole process in the industry," said John Stuart, faculty adviser for the project.

Along with Stuart, other guest speakers at the ground breaking ceremonies were Lark Carter, dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dean Cartwright, executive director of facilities planning; George Hasselbush, dean of the School of Architecture and Environmental Design; Beth Currier, assistant coordinator for Disabled Student Services on campus; and Ralph Counsell, president of Disabled Students Unlimited.

The pedestrian bridge, which will extend from Inner Perimeter Road to the second floor of the Agriculture Building, was designed and planned by students. Already approved by the university, the bridge will be funded by outside sources.

Paul Dooley, chief architect and project coordinator, said he is very excited about the project, which has taken almost a year and a half to finalize.

"The bridge should cut down traffic in the building's stairway, aid handicapped students and provide an educational experience for at least 20 students," said Dooley.

The bridge should be completed sometime in May, according to Dooley. Not including labor costs, Dooley said the estimated costs of material and services are $15,000. The finished value of the project, including labor would be approximately $35,000.

Dooley said designs for the bridge began as his senior project, but because of the enthusiasm shown for the project, he was joined by others who wished to see the bridge plans carried through.

Other members of the planning team included Ralph Trystan, chief engineer of the project, and Zip Dyerweid and Joe Lapinolest, both construction majors.

Along with the planning team, the 30 other students who participate in the project will enroll in a special project class and receive elective credits.

"This is a tremendous learning experience and provides students with an understanding of the whole process in the industry," said John Stuart, faculty adviser for the project.

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Dean Cartwright said during ceremonies, "It is a thing of aesthetic beauty and will enhance the whole area as well as the building itself."

Speaking from a wheelchair, Currier said that the bridge will be a great help to handicapped students who at the present time must travel to the other side of the building in order to get to the second floor.

Women's group maps strategy for final ERA battle

BY CINDY BLANCKENBURG

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Spikers to host No. 3 UCSB

Volleyball returns to the Cal Poly Main Gym Friday night at 7:30, as the Mustangs men open their 1983 San Luis Obispo debut with rival Santa Barbara.

The Gauchos are currently the third-ranked team in the nation, behind USC and UCLA, and have never lost a match to the Cal Poly men—the women's victory in Santa Barbara last fall was the first ever for a Poly volleyball team over UCSB.

“Our players feel confident enough to beat Santa Barbara,” Mustang coach Craig Cummings said. “It's not the strongest team we've had, but one of the strongest.”

The Mustangs opened their season two weeks ago with a win over Sacramento State and a first place finish in the Northern California Collegiate Volleyball Tournament. Poly defeated the Hornets of Sac State, 15-5, 16-10 and 16-11. In tournament pool play the Mustangs downed Fresno State, Menlo College, Chico State and UC Santa Cruz.

Poly and Sacramento met again in the tournament semi-finals with the Mustangs coming out the winner, 15-7, 15-9, 15-11. Cal-Berkeley proved to be no match for the Poly six in the finals, losing 15-4 and 15-8.

Both Sacramento and Cal are considered to be two of Northern California's better teams and will most likely be in contention for the state championship later in the season. Cummings said.

The Mustangs have five returning starters back from last year's Western Collegiate Volleyball Conference co-Championship team, including conference Most Valuable Player Eddie Pettit.

In their first season in the WVC, the Mustangs finished in a three-way tie for first with Cal State Northridge and U.S. International University.

Joining Pettit for another season in the starting line-up are: third-year outside hitter Kelly Palmer, 6-3 middle blocker Tim Toon, high Flying Scott "Sky Pilot" Terry at outside hitter, and sophomore hitter Rose Bird.

Competing for the remaining starting positions are Mark Smith, Pete Me liken, Dave Rondeau, Carl Baas and Hanne Pederson.

Besides Santa Barbara the Mustangs will also be facing such nationally ranked teams as Stanford, USC and Pepperdine—all on the road.

"I am expecting to take the state championship," Cummings said. But the state title hopefully will not be the end of the road for the Poly spikers.

Cummings explained: "If we play well against the big teams we could possibly get a bid to the (NCAA) Western Regional." A spot in the Western Regional would give Cal Poly a chance for its first national championship in volleyball.

ASi recreation and Tournaments Committee

presents WINTER QUARTER MINI CLASSES

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For further information call 564-2476 or 544-8797

Sports

Matmen complete trip with 7 wins

The Cal Poly wrestling team left for Hampton, Va. last Wednesday with a 3-4 dual-meet record after losing to state rival Cal State Northridge the previous night for the first time in 20 years. But after a five-day tour of the East which also included stops in Connecticut and Lexington, Ky., the Mustangs returned to San Luis Obispo Tuesday, the proud bearers of a 1-4 record but we try to deliver a win.

On Saturday, the Mustangs defeated previously unbeaten Navy, 29-14, to capture first place in the Virginia Duals.

"It's a very prestigious meet in the East," Poly coach Vaughan Hitchcock said. "We wrestled superbly throughout the meet...when one of the guys didn't wrestle well another would pick up the slack.

On their way to the showdown with the Navy Midshipmen Cal Poly defeated Clemson and Cal-Davis.

"We've got the team at the Career Planning & Placement Center on campus. The Aerojet representatives will be interviewing Friday, January 20.

If you are looking for a company that lives up to its promise... look to Aerojet, Azusa.

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Ex-Poly stars fulfilling a dream

BY SHARYN SEARS

The dedication doesn’t end when your last college season is over.

"It's a dream coming true that you've had since you were eight years old playing Little League," said Rob Yavrock, Cal Poly's baseball pitcher who now plays in the Oakland A's minor league.

Yavrock, a business major, is one of many ex-Poly baseball players who has been drafted to pro teams and is finishing his schooling between seasons.

"To see that paycheck signed by a pro team is a thrill you just can’t believe," said Mark Bernero, a social studies major who was drafted to pitch for the New York Yankees.

After a lifetime of dedication and perseverance, the dream becomes a reality "when you realize, Wow, they’re paying me to play baseball," said Yavrock.

While setting their sights on major league ball, both men reflect on what college baseball has meant to them.

"College ball is a stepping-stone to pro ball," Bernero said. If it weren't for his experience at Cal Poly, he adds, he probably wouldn't be headed for the pros now.

Cal Poly has proved a good recruiting reservoir for the majors, according to Vavrock.

"The Central Coast All-Stars are in their second year and are comprised almost exclusively of ex-Pro players who have turned pro. The lineup also boasts two names that have already made it to the major league ranks: Rusty Kuntz of the Chicago White Sox and Jim Woolford of the San Francisco Giants. Kuntz and Woolford both lived in this area in the off-season.

Among those who test their ability against the professional caliber team are baseball teams from Cal Poly, Cuesta College, and Hancock Community College in Santa Maria.

"The games are for our benefit, but also for the other team’s benefit," Bernero said.

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Poly sinks Midshipmen

From page 8 victory in the finals, each outpointing their opponents.

Sean Shae at 126 pounds, Pat O'Donnell at 150 pounds, Howard Lawson at 147 pounds and Dale Ambler at 177 pounds were the only Midshipmen to go down in defeat against Cal Poly.

The Mustangs flew into Cincinnati on Sunday for the matches with the University of Cincinnati, University of Tennessee, and Temple University in Tennessee-Chattanooga. Cal Poly had a relatively easy time of it, defeating Cincinnati 4-0, Temple 9-6, and Tennessee-Chattanooga 26-17.

Poly's next match was against the University of Kentucky on Monday with a 25-12 whipping of a highly-regarded University of Kentucky team.

Cal Poly travels to San Jose State on Friday and will host the University of Nevada-Las Vegas on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Gym.

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CAREERS IN ENERGY...

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Beneath the rocks

"It's coming out of the closet."

That is how Anti-Defamation League National Director Nathan Perlmutter described the marked increase of acts of anti-Semitism in the United States over the past three years. The Anti-Defamation League recently released a report indicating that acts of violence against Jews and Jewish institutions more than doubled in 1983.

According to Perlmutter, those responsible for these anti-Semitic crimes are teenagers—those whose hatred of Jews flows from prejudices within their families and society in general. It is a tragic commentary not only on the American society of the present, but on our future as well.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that the rise in these crimes comes during a period when ultra-right hate groups are becoming more vocal and more powerful. The Moral Majority, John Birch Society, U.S. Labor Party and neo-Nazi elements seem to be riding the coat tails of the conservative revival that has swept Washington, D.C.

For years, the slimes have been hiding beneath the rocks. Now it is increasingly more visible:

— State Sen. John Schmitz drew a storm of media attention when he issued a press release that, in short, said there was a Jewish-lesbian conspiracy behind the pro-choice movement. Schmitz, an opponent of abortion, has also called for a military coup in the United States in the event Reaganomics fails.

— Mother Jones recently reported that Lyndon LaRouche and his U.S. Labor Party have now become confidants with the highest echelons of the Teamsters Union. LaRouche and his followers, among other things, believe in the "immediate elimination" of Jews from "public life" and the establishment of an "industrial-capitalist" authoritarian dictatorship that could be mobilized for global warfare.

Perhaps the rising power of anti-Semitic elements in the United States is not too surprising when one looks at the society we now find ourselves in: unemployment, inflation and a lack of tolerance have taken on new dimensions as people feel less and less in control of their lives. And the myth of a rich, influential "Jewish elite" is an easy target for many to direct their frustrations and alienation as they search for simple solutions to complex socio-economic problems.

A recent article by historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. notes that past conservative periods of this century (such as the 1920's and 1960's) have been followed by revivals in activism and innovation. But now there may be a new wrinkle in this historical theory. If Reaganomics fails, a power struggle may develop between far right, anti-Semitic extremists and those favoring innovation. It is a battle the innovators cannot afford to lose.

Letters

Far-reaching concerns

Editor:
This letter is in regard to the article printed on Thursday, Jan. 14, "Minorities Cop with Poly." I found the article to be statistically informative. However, I also found the information presented to be limited because racial, social or educational issues weren't dealt with in depth.

It was my understanding that the intention of the article was to enlighten the misguided Cal Poly student body regarding problems in human relations—locally and internationally. The problems which people of color deal with at Poly are "peanuts" compared with those faced on a global perspective; for example, the failure of the world to recognize the African culture as the father of human civilization. A local example of this ignorance is the Greek Fraternity/Sorority system, which was stolen from the Ancient African Mystery System. In fact, the Greeks philosophically, Socrates, Plato and friends were students of the indigenous African Mystery System, from which the Greeks wrote Western philosophies about education and human relations. What Western cultures accept as "original" thought—Greek Philosophy—came from the African Mystery System.

The Mustang Daily article deals superficially with racial issues by only quoting an unimportant incident I described casually during the interview. The points not mentioned, which I emphasized, are to me more significant and serious.

To overlook more complex local and international issues is to continue to deny their existence. It's difficult to deny that a child born on the continent of Africa is likely to die of starvation before its fifth birthday. To deny the existence of this problem is the same as pouring poison into the swollen belly of a starving infant.

We, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, feel our obligation is to speak to these concerns and not allow ourselves or this community to live pleasantly amidst this blatant ignorance. We must destroy the blindness which obscures our global vision. The article reduced world problems to mere local incidents. Our concerns extend much farther.

Mark A. Lee
President, Omega Psi Phi

Daily policy

Letters and press releases may be submitted to the Mustang Daily by bringing them to the Daily office in Room 226 of the Graphic Arts building, or by sending them to: Editor, Mustang Daily, GRC 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407. Letters must be typed and include writers' signatures and phone number.

Press releases should be submitted to the Daily at least a week before they should be run.

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