Poly shortstop sets national record by being hit by pitches

Campus club notices increase in sign thefts

By Mary Eddy
Students in the Jewish Cultural Exchange, a campus club, believe the recent increase in theft of their signs is a result of a broad anti-Semitic bias in San Luis Obispo. The thefts have occurred primarily from their box on the first floor of the University Union across from the Craft Center. The 100-member club posts signs of upcoming events, holidays and other information in the box. According to the club's president, Tobiah Goldman, someone has been taking their signs all year and recently there has been a dramatic increase in the number of thefts. "Just last week alone, I put up three signs and all of them were gone almost immediately," said Goldman, a veterinary science senior.

Goldman said many members of the club have missed participation in some activities because the notices were torn down. He added that the problem is particularly frustrating because club members often see anti-Semitic flyers in classrooms and they leave them up. "We respect other peoples' opinions even if we don't agree and we feel they should do the same," said Goldman.

Because of the small number of Jews in San Luis Obispo, Goldman said many people do not understand the important history and rich culture behind the Jewish religion and are often insensitive to Jews on campus. He added that many club members are offended by other students pressuring them to join Bible study groups and by evangelical groups on campus trying to persuade them that Judaism is wrong.

Goldman said club members have noticed an increase in the negative reaction they have encountered, such as the sign thefts, as the club has become more active on campus. "This has been a persistent thorn in our sides and we would like people who are not accepting us to know that Judaism is a valuable and vibrant way of life," stressed Goldman.

Parking spaces lost to new Ag building

By Jennifer Smagala
Students in the Jewish Cultural Exchange, a campus club, believe the recent increase in theft of their signs is a result of a broad anti-Semitic bias in San Luis Obispo. The thefts have occurred primarily from their box on the first floor of the University Union across from the Craft Center. The 100-member club posts signs of upcoming events, holidays and other information in the box. According to the club's president, Tobiah Goldman, someone has been taking their signs all year and recently there has been a dramatic increase in the number of thefts. "Just last week alone, I put up three signs and all of them were gone almost immediately," said Goldman, a veterinary science senior.

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Steam system getting old

By Craig Andrews
The Cal Poly power plant is faced with a deteriorating steam heating system which would be difficult to renovate without shutting down the university, said the plant's chief engineer.

The soil in this area has acidic contents, causing erosion in underground pipes which transport steam to nearly all large buildings on campus for heating and hot water, said Dan Hamill, chief engineer of the power plant.

The steam is condensed into liquid as it passes through heat exchangers, which have numerous tubes like a radiator. The heat exchangers were originally installed in the 1950s and have been replaced a few times over the years. However, the current system has been in place for over 20 years and is failing. The power plant is currently shut down for maintenance, but the problems are expected to continue.

"The system is reaching the end of its life," Hamill said. "We're doing our best to keep it going, but it's going to be a challenge to keep the university warm during the winter months."

In a Word

crohn's disease — n., partiality to cronies, especially as evidenced in the appointing of political hangovers to office without due regard being taken of their qualifications.

Weather

Sunny and warmer Friday with highs in the 80s. Clear Friday evening with lows in the mid 30s to 40s.
ON THE STREET

What is the biggest environmental problem?

Duffy Carolan, journalism, senior:
Nuclear waste. I think the worst thing that could happen is a nuclear armament factory because they don't have as much government regulation as, say, Diablo over there.

Jennifer Comport, architecture, junior:
For me, it's acid rain because I'm from Minnesota. It's a big problem in the Northwest.

Kurt Knapp, physical education, senior:
I think it's toxic pollutants. They've been found in arctic polar bears, fish and seals. The toxic pollutants in the air blow up to the arctic and are going into the food chain. It must be internationally controlled.

David Greenbush, child development, junior:
The nuclear war. If they use it, there's not going to be an environment to take it over with.

S. Africa protestors ignore US problems

Oakland's poor are predominantly minorities and yet they receive no notice from the "champions of change" on Berkeley's campus. The rash of finger-pointing at South Africa's internal policies appears, even in the best light, sanctimonious and arrogant.

How willing would Berkeley's protestors, and protestors from other United States campuses, be to commit acts of civil disobedience if the penalty for their crime was to service the poor and homeless?

One wonders if they would suddenly find more time for their studies and less time for their idealistic pursuits.

JOE LA GRANDEUR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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One wonders if they would suddenly find more time for their studies and less time for their idealistic pursuits.

JOE LA GRANDEUR

Letters policy

Mustang Daily encourages readers' opinions, criticisms and comments. Letters and press releases should be submitted to Room 226 of the Graphix Arts Building, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Calif. 93407.

Letters should be shorter than 250 words, must be typewritten and must include the writer's signature and telephone number.

Editors reserve the right to edit all letters for length and style and omit libelous statements. Letters will not be published without the writer's name.
Koreans vandalize US building

SEOUl, South Korea (AP) — South Korean students rampaged through a U.S. government building in Pusan on Wednesday, smashing furniture and windows with iron pipes before police dragged them out an hour later.

U.S. Embassy officials said 21 students were involved in the takeover of the building that houses the U.S. Information Service, consular offices and living quarters of some American personnel in the southern port city.

One said the students' main objective apparently was to "trash" the complex.

The assault occurred shortly after noon on the three-story building in Pusan, South Korea's second-largest city 250 miles south of Seoul.

MX missile launch successful

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — An MX missile carrying a full complement of 10 dummy warheads successfully flew a 4,000-mile test Wednesday to the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Pacific, the Air Force said.

It was the first time the MX, also known as Peacekeeper, had flown with all 10 independently targetable warheads, each with a 6,000-mile range, Air Force Sgt. Virgil Short said.

He called the test "extremely successful."

Capt. Tom Connell said liftoff came at 9 a.m., and the flight took a little less than half an hour.

It was the 12th test of the intercontinental ballistic missile in a series of 20 planned through 1987 and the third from a converted Minuteman missile silo.

Alcohol ordinance gets amended

The San Luis Obispo City Council Tuesday night unanimously approved final passage of the amended alcohol ordinance to allow drinking in areas of Meadow Park.

The ordinance now bans drinking only in the area known as the Exposition Park Green Belt, the children's playground and the preschool area.

Recommendations to remove sections of Meadow Park from the ordinance came from a Feb. 12 meeting between ASI representatives, city police and members of the recreation and park department.

ASI President Mike Mendes said because there had been no problems with student usage, the ban on Meadow Park was unnecessary.

In September 1985 the City Council banned alcohol from many city parks after 300 residents petitioned for an emergency ban on Mitchell Park to control transient problems.

On May 6, the council, with recommendations from the city park and recreation commission, police department, and recreation and parks department, held the first public hearing on the amendment.

No one spoke against amending the ordinance and the council voted unanimously to move to final passage.

During the public hearing Tuesday night Dan Torrance, a member of the County Alcohol Board, spoke against the amendment because he said it would "send wrong signals to the community on the council's stand toward drinking."

"The desire to change the original ordinance was from Cal Poly and over half of the students there are under drinking age. I know what will happen if the ordinance is amended," said Torrance.

Councilman Allen K. Settle told Torrance if there are problems in Meadow Park the ordinance can be modified.

The council approved final passage and the amendment will go into effect in 30 days.

Correction

In the story on older students, a woman interviewed was identified as Clara Barton. She is actually Clara Ford, if Barton, founder of the Red Cross, was alive today she would be 164 years old.

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Students Holly Haverty and Erich Rasimus traverse the walkway between the Computer Science Building and Engineering East.

SCARAB completes walkway, sitting area

By Julie Anne Lauer

A new brick walkway and sitting area has recently been completed between the Computer Science Building and Engineering East. Designed and built by members of SCARAB, the walkway was viewed as a permanent solution to the worn dirt path students have cut through the grass.

The area, termed "the cow path" by students, was an eyesore, according to David Floyd, president of SCARAB. Because people were determined to walk through the area the club decided that its project for this year would be to build a walkway and sitting area there.

"We wanted the area to be a place for students to go and sit and read while they are waiting for class," Floyd said.

According to Floyd, the campus master improvement plan had a projection for some type of walkway-sitting area in that corner of the Computer Science Building. Floyd said the project was designed by the entire club. Each member was asked to choose a design for the area; then all the ideas were incorporated into the final plan.

According to Floyd the greatest challenge was to design a seating area with a walkway on either side so users would not feel they were sitting in the middle of the walkway. To overcome this problem the design included a slightly higher wall that would help separate the benches from the outer walkway.

"We wanted the area to be a place for students to go and sit and read while they are waiting for class."

— David Floyd

The design phase was begun in January and construction began in late February.

The funding for the project came from the student planning commission, the Architecture and Environmental Design School Council and from SCARAB. The cost of the walkway and seating area was approximately $1,800.

SCARAB is primarily a service organization. Each year club members choose a project either in the community or on campus in which they can put their education to work helping others. Past SCARAB projects have included the seating area and kiosk, bike racks outside the Mathematics and Home Economics Building and the mural in the University Union.

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THURSDAY 22

- Students for Social Responsibility will sponsor a peace march and gathering for nuclear disarmament beginning at 5 p.m. in the U.U. Plaza and continuing down Grand Avenue to Farmers Market in downtown San Luis Obispo.
- ASI Special Events Committee will sponsor an amateur hour beginning at 8 p.m. in San Luis Lounge. Admission is 50 cents.
- The Data Processing Management Club will sponsor a computer seminar from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in U.U. Room 220.
- ASI Outings will sponsor a leadership workshop where students will learn basic communication and leadership skills at 11 a.m. in U.U. Room 112.

- The political science department, in conjunction with Pi Sigma Alpha, will host a career day event which will include a talk by San Luis Obispo city and county personnel office workers on careers in the personnel field from 10 to 11 a.m. in U.U. Room 216. From 11 a.m. to noon representatives from Cal Poly will talk about careers in law and the day's events will close with a reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Staff Dining Room B where local internship opportunities will be presented.

FRIDAY 23

- Center for the Arts will sponsor a performance by pianist Fredrick Moyer at 8 p.m. in the Cal Poly Theatre as part of the quintessence series. Admission is $4 for students, $6 general and $7 preferred. Tickets are available at the Theatre Ticket Office, U.U. Ticket Office, Boo Boo Records and Cheap Thrills in San Luis Obispo.
- ASI Outings will sponsor a weekend horsepacking trip through the High Sierras. Sign-ups and details are in U.U. Room 12.

Accused Night Stalker pleads innocent; five counts are dropped

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Night Stalker defendant Richard Ramirez, described by his attorneys as excited and encouraged by the dropping of five robbery counts, pleaded innocent Wednesday to 14 murders and 31 other felonies.

Ramirez's lawyers said they would file numerous motions seeking to have the notorious murder case thrown out or moved to a city where Ramirez is less famous.
To guard against dropping milk prices, dairy farmers are forced to sell their herds for slaughter — causing beef prices to plummet.

NOWA CONDLEY

Brian Peters wanted to get involved in Cal Poly’s Project Dairy, so he decided to start looking for some good milking cows to buy. The junior dairy science major came to Cal Poly in January from a 200-head dairy in Oregon, which he owns in part with his father and brother. But when the family decided to sell the cows to defend itself against the ever-increasing milk surplus, Peters found he was unable to own cows for school.

Whether involved in agriculture or not, it’s hard to escape hearing about the problems affecting the industry. With many farms going out of business and production costs rising, agriculture is in a depression.

A recent program designed to decrease the national milk surplus has affected dairy and beef producers throughout the nation. Ranked as the number-two state in dairy cattle numbers, and in the top 10 cattle producing states, California has been affected by the new program, and so have several Cal Poly students.

The Whole-Herd Dairy Buy-Out Program, which was introduced through the 1985 farm bill, was implemented by the government to eliminate milk surplus in the United States by slaughtering about 1/4 million head of dairy cattle. The program will operate during an 18-month period which began April 1, 1986 and will continue to October 1, 1987. According to Drovers Journal, an agricultural publication, the buy-out program will take about 8.7 percent of the national milk base out of production which may raise milk prices some for the consumer.

Dairymen submitted bids that they would leave the dairy business for five years by going out of production. The stipulations of the program affected Peters’ hopes of becoming a dairy project member at Cal Poly because, as a part-owner of his family farm, his name is also on the bid. If Peter purchased dairy cows for the project, he would have had to sell those animals, too.

The buy-out was divided into three “disposal periods,” which were established for producers to contract their cattle for sale to slaughter or export. A total of 1.55 million head of dairy cows, heifers and calves will go either to slaughter or export during the 18-month program.

Two-thirds of the dairy cattle were contracted into the first disposal period, April 1 to Aug. 31, 1986. The main concern of those involved in the beef cattle industry is that because so many dairy cows will go to market during this time there will be a glut of red meat on the market, the results of which have already been felt by consumers.

The program has impacted the beef cattle market by causing prices to plummet before they had a chance to recover the ground they held previous to the buy-out program.

The United States Department of Agriculture, in the hopes of off-setting a glut, will purchase an extra 400 million pounds of red meat using excess money that’s no longer spent on milk subsidies. Some of this meat will be sold on the world market.

Senior dairy science major Julie Rasmussen is from a 240-cow dairy in Turlock, Calif. She believes the buy-out program is a good solution for dairymen who were going bankrupt or who got into the business when interest rates were high.

“Farmers have the right to make a decent living just like the city population does,” said Rasmussen.

Her parents submitted a bid for all three disposal periods, not preferring one to another. On March 30 they were notified they had been accepted into the first period of the program. “We were a little surprised,” said Rasmussen.

She owns 30 Holstein and 20 Jersey cows in her parent’s herd, and is looking for buyers. Rasmussen said her family is trying to sell the cattle.

See INSIGHT, page 8

MILK GLUT

TOM ANDERSON/Mustang Daily

Dairy cows face an uncertain future as milk prices drop. But this increased amount of meat on the market is adversely affecting beef producers.
A fee breakdown: pieces of the educational pie

By Dawn J. Jackson

While students may grumble at the thought of paying registration fees, what they may not realize is that the state picks up about 90 percent of the cost of education, which is little more than $5,000 per full-time student.

The university operates on an annual $90 million budget, but fees paid by students amount to only about $2 million.

Fees paid by students vary in nature and include everything from faculty salaries to student health care.

The California resident student fee, which are paid when CAR forms are turned in, are broken down into five categories: the state university fee, the instructionally related activities fee, the health facilities fee, the student body center (U.U.) fee and the student body association (ASI) fee.

The largest chunk out of the Cal Poly fees is the state university fee, which, for 1986-87 was $191 per quarter. These fees are used to reimburse the Cal Poly general fund.

The general fund is the Cal Poly budget, and consisted of $90 million in the 1985-86 academic year. There are two money sources that pay into this fund: allocations from the state and the state university fees paid by students.

Included in the state university fee is the student services fee, which in past years had been a separate fee. Under student services are financial aid administration, testing services, counseling services, the career planning and placement centers, the social/cultural development program and the housing administration program.

The student services fee was implemented to offset budget reductions after Proposition 13 and has been increased during the past several years.

Last year it was mandated by the state that what the Legislature passed should not be put on the backs of students, said Rick Ramirez, budget officer for Cal Poly. The fees should be predictable, he said.

The student services fee was then combined into the state university fee to make up 8-10 percent of the general fund. It was also mandated that these fees could not be increased at a faster rate than the university budget.

The general fund also gets reimbursed an additional $1.7 million from non-resident tuition fees, applications fees and other fees. Application fees alone provide the university with about $500,000 per year.

The state university fee is divided into four areas: instruction, academic support, institutional support and student services.

Allocations to each of these areas are figured by budget formulas independent of fee collection, Ramirez said.

He said that for example, there are more than 70 variables that estimate the faculty allocations, with student enrollment being the primary one.

Instruction makes up about 60 percent of the university budget. Included in this area are the salaries of the faculty, the deans, the department heads and student assistants. Also included are university operating expenses and equipment used in the departments.

Academic support makes up about 10 percent of the budget. The major expense in this heading is the library; the budget pays for the salaries of the staff, the upkeep and all of the material expenses. Audiovisual services, the writing skills lab, the computer center and college forums are also included.

Cal Poly executive management, such as the president and the provost, is funded by the institutional support section. It makes up about 20 percent of the budget.

Student services is handled by the Dean of Students, and takes about 7 percent of the budget.

The instructionally related activities fee is $8 per quarter. Programs such as athletics, theater and band are funded by this fee.

The health facilities fee of $2 per quarter enables the Health Center to provide basic medical services such as walk-in care, allergy shots, X-rays and blood tests.

The University Union fee was $42 for the 1985-86 year, but it will increase a total of $9 next year and $84 the following year. These two increases are for funding the rec center.

The money taken in for the rec center will go toward maintenance of the building, administration and accounting and the paying of its debt. The fees also pay to run the Recreation Office, the Galerie, the Information Desk and the Craft Center.

The final fee paid by students is the ASI fee, which was $35 for the year. ASI has a yearly budget of about $3 million, which is used to fund ASI-sponsored programs and activities, such as the film committee, rugby team, speaker’s forum and Polywood Audiovisual.

ASI is also responsible for ensuring the activities of the clubs and organizations it sponsors, which have increased in the past year.

ASI Executive Director Roger Conway said ASI will either have to increase fees in the near future or cut programs to remain financially solvent.

Cal Poly is the seventh most expensive of the 19 California State University campuses. All of the campuses charge $573 in state university fees, but differ in the amount of other fees that they charge.

San Jose State University is the most expensive of the CSU schools, with yearly fees of $723. Its largest expense over Cal Poly is its student center fee of $114. Cal State Bakersfield has the lowest yearly fees, charging $621 per year. It has no student center fee.

Cal Poly has one of the highest instructionally related activities fees at $24. Only San Diego State University has a higher fee at $30.

Additional, but not mandatory, Cal Poly fees are parking fees, late registration fees, graduation and diploma fees, summer session and extension fees, catalog fees, transcript fees, ID card fees, miscellaneous course material fees and dormitory fees.
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INSIGHT

From page 5:

"I'm selling two hens to Mexico, and didn't even get what they were worth," said Rasmussen. Her family will be looking into exporting to Mexico and Canada, she said.

Now the family will look to new occupations and a change in lifestyle. "We figured out what we needed (in order to) to get out. We're not going to get rich from the program. Not every dairyman is going to make a million," said Rasmussen.

At this point, the family does not know if they will return to dairying in five years. She said every dairyman staying in business is part of the problem of milk surplus. The dairyman in California, "It's hard to go out of business."

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Foundation to decide on divestment issue at Friday's meeting

By Gita Virrann

The Cal Poly Foundation Board of Directors will vote Friday on divestment from companies that do business in South Africa.

The vote will take place at a meeting which is open to the public and will begin at 9 a.m. in University Union Room 220.

Concerned Cal Poly Faculty and Staff, a group interested in the Foundation's involvement, is expected to have members advocate divestment, said Richard Kranzdorf, a political science professor and member of CCPFS.

"We don't plan to make a statement as a group, and at this point we're not planning a demonstration or any group action before Friday," Kranzdorf said.

Members of CCPFS and other Cal Poly faculty members are urging people to attend the meeting.

Kranzdorf teaches an African politics class and urges his students to examine the issue of divestment carefully and go to the meeting. He is not holding class on Friday so that he and his students can attend.

"Divestment is a major issue for the class, and although it's no secret that CCPFS supports divestment, I don't show a point of view in class," Kranzdorf said.

"I want students to decide on their own." History professor Quintard Taylor is also urging people to go to the meeting, but he doesn't think that much campus publicity about the issue of divestment is necessary.

"Given the nature of events in South Africa which are in the news nearly every day, we don't need to publicize it much more. South Africa is keeping itself in the news," Taylor said.

If the Foundation should vote not to divest, Kranzdorf said the issue will continue to be of utmost importance to CCPFS.

"Divestment is an issue that CCPFS intends to remain involved in as long as the issue stays on campus. I'm trying to think positively, though, hoping that the Foundation will vote for divestment," Kranzdorf said.

"We're meeting next week and we'll consider our options if the vote is against divestment." If the Foundation divestment vote is passed, CCPFS will turn its attention to other issues, Kranzdorf said.

Taylor said, "The Academic Senate, ASI and President Baker all are in favor of divestment, so now we have to convince the Foundation."
Crew team ends a plagued season

The Cal Poly crew team ended a trying season last weekend at the United States Rowing Association Southwest Regionals at Lake Cachuma.

The men's heavyweight eight team finished third out of six teams, the women's novice eight placed second out of a field of four and the men's lightweight eight team also finished in second place.

Aside from the fact that the Mustangs don't have NCAA status and therefore must pay for all of their traveling expenses and equipment, they've also had to fight equipment problems all year.

The Mustangs bought a four-man boat from Humboldt and spent all season fixing it up only to have it rammed by Santa Clara at the Small Crews Regatta earlier this season. The accident sidelined the boat for the rest of the season with a broken hull and other damage.

Then, the Mustangs' boat trailer gave way to rust and collapsed at a meet in Onarad and they had to leave their trailer and their boats behind after the meet.

To cap it all off, the Mustangs' insurance coverage has been suspended, which prevents them from keeping and racing their boats at Santa Margarita Lake.

"We've had so many problems this year," said Dorene MacCoy, a member of the women's team. "But we've kept a positive attitude through it all and we're still here."

The Mustangs will be losing coach Bruce MacCoy next season, but he is happy with what the team has accomplished.

"Considering what we were up against, I think we did very well," he said. "I feel good about leaving because they (the team) have got what they need to keep going next year."

Poirier sets record as human backstop

By Julie Brandt

The last pitch has been thrown for the Cal Poly men's baseball team and one player on the team is still recovering from a record he set.

Dave Poirier has set a NCAA Division II record for the number of times being hit by pitches, with 14 in one season. The old record was 11.

Poirier, also known as the "hit man," said the record wasn't something he planned to break; it was just one of those things that happened.

There is no doubt that there is a certain amount of pain that goes with being hit by a pitch, which on the Mustangs travels about 80 m.p.h.

But Poirier said: "I really don't feel the pain because there is so much adrenaline flowing through him at the plate. I've said he doesn't really expect it."

Poirier, shortstop for the Mustang baseball player John Orton was recently selected as one of 20 players to play for the USA baseball team.

The team also travels to major tournaments in Canada and Amsterdam, Holland.

Orton was selected to the first team All-league as catcher this year in the CCAA. He batted .40 overall and 1 hit in 357 at-bats.

USA team wants Orton for summer

By John Grennan

Mustang baseball player John Orton will get a chance to play ball against some of the best college level players in the world this summer.

Orton, the starting catcher for the Mustangs this past year, was recently selected to play for the USA team this summer. The last Mustang player to make the team was St. Louis shortstop Alex Sneath.

The coach of the USA team is Bob Bennett from Fresno State and Orton thinks he knows why he selected him. "We played three games with Fresno State and I hit .340 overall and played pretty good defensively," says Orton.

According to Poll coach Steve McFarland, Orton is regarded as one of the best defensive catchers in the country. "It's a big honor for John to play for the USA team," says McFarland.

"The 20 players selected are 20 of the best players in the country. John will be the only non-Division I player on the team," the way the team is selected is the coach, Bennett, hand picks 15 players for the team and then 15 more players are chosen from a tryout. Eventually the team is whittled down to a 20-man traveling squad. Orton will head for Tennessee June 13 to begin practicing with the team.

Included on the team's schedule are national teams from Cuba, South Korea and Japan.

Looking ahead to 1988, Orton's last year of college ball, he says he would prefer going pro rather than tryout for the US Olympic baseball team.

"I'll do anything to get on that team to help the team out," he said.

Poirier said after the word got out, he had a record for being hit by pitches, pitchers would pitch away from him. In fact, 57 over. In fact, it is the least of his goals for the next season.
A nuclear weapon was exploded deep beneath the Nevada desert early Wednesday, the 11th such blast since the Soviet Union announced a unilateral test moratorium last August.

The test, code-named Panamint, was the fourth announced shot at the Nevada Test Site this year. The 6:39 a.m. PDT blast carried an explosive force of less than 20,000 tons of TNT, said spokesman Jack Campbell said it went off without incident.

The Panamint shot brings to 630 the number of announced tests at the Nevada site since testing was moved there in January of 1951. The test was conducted a day after five anti-nuclear activists were arrested for trespassing on the sprawling site.

HEATING

From page 1

Hamill said the contaminated water is dumped down a drain in the Computer Science Building.

He said he is trying to replace some heat exchangers, which can cost as much as $3,400. He is also trying to repair other heat exchangers and pumps, but said it's hard to find parts for all of them.

Hamill is also planning to install a device to reduce water hardness.

The problem is that parts of the campus would have to be shut down during repairs. "If (the power plant) doesn't operate, the whole university becomes a cardboard box, uncomfortable and poorly-functioning," Hamill said.

The system can't be shut off in the Computer Science Building because steam powers the air conditioner to the Computer Center, and the center, which serves much of the campus, would have to be shut down.

Hamill expects renovation of the steam system to be delayed to a certain extent. "It's like your heart — it pumps for years, and you never notice it ... then you have the heart attack," Hamill said.

From page 1

Hamill said the contaminated water is dumped down a drain in the Computer Science Building.

"What happens to the traffic and functions of buildings when you shut them down?" Hamill asked.

"Essentially you disrupt the whole university," he said.

Parts of the system date back to the early years of Cal Poly, Hamill said.

The leaks in the system are forcing the power plant to discard almost 30 percent of hot water returning to the plant.

This is because contaminants enter the system through leaks, and the water picks up minerals that would coat the inside of boilers with hard water deposits.

Hamill said he's not sure how much the steam boilers cost, but he estimates each boiler would cost more than $100,000. The power plant has four boilers.

Hamill said many of the leaks have not been located, and many known leaks are in pipes under roads and buildings on campus.

Repairs in such places would require roads and parts of buildings to be ripped apart.

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