Sprinklers must be installed in historic downtown buildings

By Marianne Biasotti

If fire sprinklers are not installed in downtown San Luis Obispo buildings, they could be lost to fire, said Fire Chief Mike Dolder.

Speaking at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast, Dolder said about 170 buildings need to be retrofitted with sprinklers. Without sprinkler systems, the 15 blocks bounded by Palm, Nipomo, Marsh and Pepper streets—which include several buildings dating back to the turn of the century—could be eaten by fire.

"Sprinklers save lives and property most effectively," Dolder said. "The most important thing in our downtown is our history."

The Uniform Building and Fire Codes require existing buildings within the 15-block commercial zone to have automatic sprinklers by 1994. If a business within the district changes ownership within that time, sprinklers must be installed within one year.

Older buildings outside the district may or may not require sprinklers depending on floor area and occupancy type. All new buildings within city limits must have sprinklers.

Most local buildings destroyed by fire could have been saved by a sprinkler system, Fire Marshal Erwin Willis said. The most recent example was the Etcetera building fire on Higuera Street last March.

Etcetera had no sprinkler system and burned to the ground, while Studio Video, a building about the same size, suffered little damage last August because of its sprinkler system.

Both stores had about the same hazards: Etcetera's walls were lined with paper products and Studio Video was lined with plastic boxes.

The fire department, located nearby, was immediately notified of the Etcetera fire because it happened in the middle of the day. Willis said. But even after using more than 500,000 gallons of water, the business could not be saved.

The Studio Video fire, on the other hand, occurred in the middle of the night. An alarm was activated, and by the time the fire department arrived, a single sprinkler head had put out the fire.

Willis said 66 percent of the fires are put out by one sprinkler head.

The Board of Directors of the Los Osos Fire District also passed a resolution to require sprinklers for all new buildings within the district.

By Patty Hayes

Although speaking in front of a large audience ranks right up there with going to the dentist for most people, some Cal Poly students are learning the finer points of public speaking and debate—and loving it.

The Cal Poly Forensics Team consists of 18 debaters and two or three students who compete in individual competitions such as oral interpretation and dramatic reading. The team is coached by communications professor Terry Winebrenner.

Dougherty and her debate teammates from Oregon, Fresno and Sacramento.

"Many students aren't well versed in debate," She said. "Ninety-nine percent of our debaters have no previous experience."

Through debate, students can learn skills that will help them in almost any career, she said. Most forensics team members are speech communication majors. A few, however, are enrolled in political science, economics and other majors.

Dougherty, a speech communication senior and fourth year debate team member, said she "fell into" debating by accident.

"All speech majors are required to take a forensics course in which they are introduced to the debate team. Dougherty took the class and decided to join the team."" Speaking in front of people doesn't phase me anymore," Dove said.

Dougherty and her debate teammate, Clark Friesen, tied for first place with the Cal Poly team in Forensics, page 7

Employ me, please!

For the eleventh year, Cal Poly students got to strut their stuff at the Career Symposium. Find out what some employers had to say about us.

Monetary misery...

Architecture professor Marcel Sedlitzky examines Mexico's economic woes and the reasons for increased illegal alien traffic.

A ton of athletics...

The Cal Poly Invitational Gymnastics meet headlines this weekend's sports action.
Second Opinion

Greeks should drop pledging

Being a fraternity pledge can be deadly. A Morehouse College student died last week after a heart attack last October after a five-hour fraternity ritual. Now, leaders of all eight national black fraternities and sororities have recommended banning the pledging process in order to stop all hazing. They deserve applause for taking the lead in a movement that should be joined by all campus hierarchies and fraternities.

More than 40 students have died and hundreds have been injured in hazing-related incidents during the past decade, according to the National Interfraternity Conference, which represents 59 fraternities with 5,200 chapters on 900 campuses in the United States and Canada. These tragedies have prompted prompts for ban on excessive drinking, physical abuse, depriving pledges of sleep, verbal humiliation and other harassment during the probation period. Yet despite such bans, state laws and college regulations, the dangerous behavior has continued.

Now Greek-letter organizations are taking the ultimate step necessary to stop the abuses: Zeta Beta Tau, a predominantly white fraternity, was the first to institute a no-pledge policy last September. Potential members still meet fraternity brothers during rush, but furnished are initiated within 72 hours after being accepted. The new brothers learn history, tradition and ritual in an appropriate post-initiation educational process.

By denouncing pledging, the National Panhellenic Conference can continue the legacy of leadership and save lives.

—Excerpted from the Los Angeles Times, Feb. 22.

Opinion

Commentary

Mexican's economic woes

By Marcel Sedletsky

Someone said, "Show me a country which exports its raw materials and imports manufactured goods, and I'll show you a colony." Those who argue Mexico's foreign economy is entwined in an international system have witnessed Mexico's rapid transformation into an economic colony of foreign powers, primarily the United States.

In the past, Mexico, while encouraging foreign investments, has prudently limited their holdings to 49 percent, thus maintaining national control over a healthy part of its surplus capital, which is essential for the economic health of a country.

In the '70s, encouraged by high oil prices and the generosity of foreign banks (mostly Americans), both President Echeverria and his successor Poro-dio have committed Mexico to huge foreign debts in an effort to become overnight a major industrial nation.

Being the most visible, both men took the blame for their irresponsible optimism when the bottom fell out of the oil prices and Mexico found itself saddled with a huge debt, unfinished industrial expansion plans, stunned economy and staggering inflation.

While Mexican government was loudly blamed for this gross mismanagement, on one mentioned the equally irresponsible actions of the foreign banks who encouraged the wild borrowing, thus constantly raised the interest and loaned additional billions of dollars to Mexico to pay the interest on foreign debts that increased the debt itself and getting Mexico firmly into the trap. From a staggering $83 billion in 1973, Mexico's foreign debt rose to an even more staggering $108 billion just a year ago.

Thus put on its knees by the lenders, Mexico had to relinquish its 51 percent held on key industries, open its credit policy to foreign investors as full ownership, creating "maquiladoras," a form of foreign industries that utilize cheap Mexican labor but otherwise are separated from Mexican economy.

Surely, but not slowly, Mexico is becoming dominated by foreign corporate giants in such key areas as manufacturing machinery, pharmaceuticals, paper products, soft drinks, entertainment recording, electronics and processed food industries.

More and more, Mexico is yielding to relentless pressure from foreign investors and is opening its sacred holdings in air transportation, telephone systems, cement manufacturing and even copper mining.

It is desperately clinging to its oil resources as its national treasure, but who knows for how long, for it seems the foreign oil companies have never forgiven Mexico for nationalizing its mineral resources back in the '70s. Even the tourist industry, Mexico's native pride, is being taken over by foreign capital.

What does it have to do with illegal immigration to the United States? Due to a lack of capital and inability to compete with strong foreign economies, today's Mexico, deprived of its surplus capital and asset by an enormous foreign debt, is unable to build its domestic economy and achieve an economic independence, thus quickly becoming an economic colony and a labor camp for foreigners, mostly Americans.

This inability to generate domestic wealth spells diabolical conditions for millions of already poor, for Mexico has nothing to offer. The supermarket shelves and the clothing racks of Mexico are more and more dominated by foreign products with price tags far exceeding people's ability to pay.

Working on American farms and orchards, or toiling in a sweat shop, is not all milk and honey, but at least it is a means to survive and even offers a flicker of hope to prosper one day.

Marcel Sedletsky is an architecture professor.
prove filing dates for the 1990 ASI election. Filing opens on Monday, Mar. 5 and ends on Friday, Mar. 16.

Joanna Handler, chairman of the Elections Committee, said that although five directors already are appointed for next year, there still are plenty of seats to run for.

In the School of Agriculture four seats are open; the Schools of Engineering, Business, Professional Studies and Education, Liberal Arts and Architecture and Environmental Design each have three seats open; and the School of Science and Mathematics has one seat open.

Persons interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors should go to the Student Life and Activities office in University Union Room 217 to pick up a candidate's packet and pay a $10 filing fee, which is refundable at the end of the campaign, Handler said.

While presenting the packet on Wednesday, Handler advised the board to think about changing rules governing campaign financing for officers.

Currently, persons running for officers on the Board of Directors can spend no more than $600 for expenses, with no more than $150 of that for paid media advertising. Handler suggested that for a trial year the paid media limit be kept, but have no limit for other expenses.

"The reason why we (the Elections Committee) advise it is because it's a hard judgment call to put a fair market value on what people use in their campaigns," she said. "For instance, if someone borrows a sign, we still have to determine what's a fair market value for it."

Several reasons against this change were brought up during informal discussion at the Board of Director's meeting last week. The main problem, some directors said, was that this change would give candidates with the most money an unfair advantage. Others said that one election is not enough to evaluate the change's effectiveness.

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El Rodeo for 1990

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Don't miss out on the action
Companies get a look at Poly’s brightest

By Larre Sterling

Employers representing 100 companies attended Cal Poly’s 11th Annual Career Symposium to speak informally to more than 4,000 students. Representatives from public and private organizations, businesses and agencies spoke with students about career options, cooperative education and summer employment opportunities.

Companies and agencies ranging from Hewlett Packard to Gilroy Unified School District to the California Highway Patrol were represented.

“The goal is to make it easier for students and employers to get together under the same time frame,” said Debij Caccese, spokesman for Cooperative Education and Placement Services.

Companies were looking for students graduating in majors ranging from liberal arts to engineering. Most of the companies hire 60-80 college graduates annually. Cal Poly is one of the universities with the highest number of graduates hired as a result of the annual symposium.

“We have been very successful hiring a number of students from Cal Poly. Obviously we want to continue this success,” said Perry R. Watson, manager of college recruitment for Xerox Corporation. “We think highly of

See SYMPOSIUM, page 6

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The world’s leading manufacturer of military tracked vehicles
Will be holding an information session at Quality suites, 1631 Monterey St., SLO, on Sun. Feb. 25 from 5:30-8:00pm. Refreshments will be served and there will be a slide show and video presentation. Representatives from FMC will answer any questions.

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Offer expires March 15, 1990. One coupon per visit. Not good with any other offers.
**SPRINKLERS**

From page 1, sprinklers, and 96 percent are extinguished by three sprinkler heads.

Only 200 gallons were needed to put out the fire, which caused $1,000 damage in a 3-by-3 area. Firefighters vacated the water and the store opened the next morning.

"It would have burned to the ground (without the sprinkler)," said Willis. "The three businesses next door would have also burned."

Dolder said installing sprinkler systems in downtown businesses would cost $3.75 a square foot, and if the city pitched in by providing some of the labor, it could cost $2.50 a square foot.

Willis proposed that the city absorb one-third of the cost by paying $1 million for the conversion of underground water lines. It would be much easier for the city to tear up a block at a time to upgrade the water lines than for individual businesses to do it, he said.

"Some (water lines) date back to the 1890s," Willis said. "Our downtown water system is in poor shape."

Willis said there are financial benefits available to businesses that retrofit their buildings with sprinkler systems.

Some insurance companies will give retailers a 300 to 500 percent policy discount if they have sprinklers depending on whether they are classified as a medium or high hazard, he said.

"(The savings on insurance) would pay for the sprinkler system in five to 10 years," Willis said. Architect Sake Reindersma, who is working on the Etcetera building, said owners can add on the cost of the sprinkler system to the price of building.

"(Etcetera) will be the most valuable property on that street (after sprinklers are installed)," Reindersma said.
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• As seen in T.T. Travel Tabloid & at Travel Expo
• 11 cycling & 4 layover days
• Easy riding/flexible distances/35 mi. average
• Support van included: no luggage carried
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$100.00 Deposit due immediately to confirm
Call Wes 543-2182 or THE TRAVEL COMPANY 544-6300

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We will reduce the prices on ALL our used equipment $10 every day until it's all sold!
Get in early for best selections. It's first come first serve. All sales final.
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50¢ OFF
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SYMPOSIUM
From page 4
Of the 80 graduates hired by Xerox last year, six were from Cal Poly. Xerox has made five offers to Cal Poly students graduating in June, said Watson.
"I am looking for career contacts and job opportunities. This is a stepping stone to the future," said recreation administration senior Corrine Robins.
In the past five years, Zacky Farms has hired eight Cal Poly graduates. Zacky Farms looks for students majoring in poultry science, food science, business, biology and microbiology.
"This is an event that our company has frequented for years in the past. We have had a great success with Cal Poly poultry science and food science graduates," said Warrinet Schuller, senior personnel representative for Zacky Farms.

COUNT-DOWN TO ZERO
We will reduce the prices on ALL our used equipment $10 every day until it's all sold!
Get in early for best selections. It's first come first serve. All sales final.
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Low Cost Bike Tours
from Amsterdam to Paris
Wes Conner, experienced tour director, will be escorting 2 trips: June 18 to July 2; June 28 to July 12.
• As seen in T.T. Travel Tabloid & at Travel Expo
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$100.00 Deposit due immediately to confirm
Call Wes 543-2182 or THE TRAVEL COMPANY 544-6300

Beat the housing crunch!
"Can you tell me how to get to Bid 105?"
"This could be your next year!"

Reserve your space for fall 1990:
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any size sandwich
(one coupon per person)
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Symposium
From page 4
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Forensics
From page 1
of Mary Hamblen and Marty Collins in the varsity (open) division of cross-examination debate last month at Fresno State's Racin Invitational.
Debaters are divided into three categories of "open, junior and novice," Dougherty said.
She has competed in the open category for two years and hopes to attend the national championships in Missouri in late March. The championships "will be my last debates, so I hope we do well," Dougherty said. She will graduate in June.
Much of the debaters' time is spent on research and preparation, Dougherty said. The Cross-Examination Debate Association presents a topic that will be debated from September to December and another topic for January through April.
The topic for Spring 1990 is "Resolved: that the trend toward increasing foreign investment in the United States is detrimental to this nation." Debaters must prepare various cases within that topic and be prepared to debate for and against the resolution.
Coach Terry Winebrenner said the team members "read every book and article on the subject that they can get their hands on.
"They spend more time in the library than they will in homework time for all their classes," he said.
Dougherty said she "spent most of Christmas vacation in the library." Such extensive research is a great learning experience, she said.
"I have a lot more knowledge on this topic (foreign investment) than if I'd taken three economics classes," Dougherty said.
First-quarter debater Wendy Whitacre agreed that research and debate often teach more than classes can.
Novice debaters focus more on the technical side of debate rather than research, she said.
Whitacre and teammate Elizabeth Schoenheider tied for third place at the Fresno competition with the Cal Poly team of Chris Flessoras and Mark Hamblen. It was only Whitacre's second competition.
"You get hooked on it," Whitacre said of debating. "It takes up a lot of time, but it just depends on how dedicated you are.
The forensics team's next competition is at CSU Hayward March 3-4. Cal Poly will host a competition St. Patrick's Day weekend against the top teams in California and the western United States.

Symposium
From page 4
of the students and programs at Cal Poly.
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Sports Calendar

Friday, February 23
• Men's Basketball at CSU Northridge — Game
time is 8:05 p.m. in Northridge.
• Wrestling vs. CSU Fullerton — The dual meet
begins at 7:30 p.m at Mott Gym.
• Men's Tennis vs. CSU Sacramento — The
match begins at 2 p.m.
• Softball at University of San Diego — The game
begins at 4 p.m. in San Diego.
• Baseball at University of Pacific — The game
begins at 2:30 p.m. in Stockton.
• Men's Volleyball at Stanislaus State — Game
time is 7:30 p.m.
• Men's Gymnastics vs. University of Washington

Saturday, February 24
• Gymnastics — The Mustangs will host the Cal
Poly Invitational, which features two of the top
teams in Division II and Stanford, a Division I
power. The meet begins at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.
• Men's Basketball at CSU Los Angeles — Game
time is 6:05 p.m.
• Women's Basketball at CSU Los Angeles —
Game time is 5:45 p.m.
• Swimming at the Bakersfield Invitational — The
meet will last all day Saturday.
• Women's Tennis vs. Cal Poly Pomona — The
match begins at 9 a.m.
• Men's Tennis vs. Cal Poly Pomona — The match
begins at 11 a.m. at the Cal Poly tennis courts.
• Track — The track squad will be at UC Berkeley
for the Northern California relays.
• Baseball at UOP — Game time is 1 p.m.
• Softball at UC San Diego — Game time is noon.
• Rugby vs. San Diego State — Rugby West
Magazine has selected this game as the Steinlager
Game of the Week. The game will be videotaped by
Prime Ticket Network to be aired February 27 at
9:30 p.m. The game will be played in Mustang
Stadium beginning at 11 a.m.
• Women's Water Polo — The Mustangs will host the Cal
Poly Invitational, which features two of the top
teams in Division II and Stanford, a Division 1
power. The meet begins at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.
• Men's Basketball at CSU Los Angeles — Game
time is 8:05 p.m.
• Women's Basketball at CSU Los Angeles —
Game time is 5:45 p.m.
• Swimming at the Bakersfield Invitational — The
meet will last all day Saturday and Sunday.
• Crew — The crew club will open its season in
Morro Bay against the University of San Diego.
• Lacrosse at St. Mary's — Game time is 1 p.m.
• Track — The track squad will be at UC
Davis for an all-day tournament.

Sunday, February 25
• Baseball at UOP — Game time is 1 p.m.
• Women's Water Polo — The women will host a
tournament at Cuesta College, which will last all
day Saturday and Sunday.
• Rugby vs. San Diego State — Rugby
West Magazine has selected this game as the Steinlager
Game of the Week. The game will be videotaped by
Prime Ticket Network to be aired February 27 at
9:30 p.m. The game will be played in Mustang
Stadium beginning at 11 a.m.
• Polo — The Polo club will host the Intercollegiate
Tournament at the Santa Barbara Polo Club.
• Men's Water Polo — The men's team will be at UC
Davis for an all-day tournament.
• Women's Water Polo — The women will host a
tournament at Cuesta College, which will last all
day Saturday and Sunday.
• Crew — The crew club will open its season in
Morro Bay against the University of San Diego.
• Lacrosse at St. Mary's — Game time is 1 p.m.
• Track — The track squad will be at UC
Davis for an all-day tournament.

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