Nuclear waste worries SLO
Policy allows harmful trash to be dumped
By Grant Landy

Only a few steps into the 90s, and the decade of environmenal consciousness and energy alternatives has already separated the public and private spheres into two camps — those who generate energy and those who must get rid of it. And those who use the energy and want its waste disposed of safely.

An example of this is a new policy approved in June by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Called Below Regulatory Concerns (BRC), it will allow about 30 percent of the nation's "low-level" radioactive waste to be treated as normal garbage.

Possibly, trash companies could be picking up radioactive wastes and discarding them into dumpsters.

"The policy has been around since the Atomic Energy Act of 1954," said Mothers For Peace representative Laurie McDermott. "But now it's being developed and only awaits an application before being enacted."

Low-level wastes are not the primary wastes discarded. Police from the San Luis Obispo County, said Margory Donati, billing officer for the city.

"Low-level wastes are just a contamination found primarily on clothing," said Kastenberg. "It's mainly the bike parts take the costs and gloves of maintenance officers.

Concern in San Luis Obispo County would focus mainly on the nuclear facility at Diablo Canyon, located in the Irish Hills north of Avila Beach and on utility companies like Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). It was Kastenberg's understanding, however, that the policy is optional, and that the utilities were not going to follow it, mainly because of concerns over their public image.

But he said the economic incentive may be so great that money may soon outrun imagination.

"It is much cheaper to rid wastes in trash than in other ways, such as hauling it to burial sites," he said.

Diablo Canyon spokesman Brad Thomas said that PG&E has no intention of using the BRC rule.

"We here at PG&E and Diablo Canyon do not use it," said Thomas. "We probably will never do it."

What worries environmental groups like Mothers For Peace and representative McDermott is that the companies could utilize the BRC rule without notifying the public.

See NBC, page 6

Bike riders urged to use locks
Police also favor registration for easier retrieval
By William Douglass

Bicycle theft continues to plague the campus, said Cal Poly Police Officer Joe Baranek. Last year more than 100 bikes were stolen on campus.

According to the San Luis Obispo Police Department, an additional 191 bicycles were reported stolen within city limits in the same period, for a loss of more than $66,000. The Crime Prevention Department classifies most of these thefts "crimes of opportunity" because the bikes were not locked.

"To my knowledge," Baranek said, "no bike on campus has been stolen when it was locked up properly with a U-bolt." He said chain locks can be broken with bolt cutters.

Baranek said the best way to recover a stolen bike is to have it registered before it is stolen. Cal Poly requires all dormitory residents to register bicycles with Public Safety. There is no charge for registration. Officers take the bike's description and serial number, they and issue it a license number.

If the bicycle is reported stolen, the serial and license numbers are entered in a nationwide computer, said Baranek. Officers can run a computer check on a bike during traffic stops, and if it comes up as stolen the bike is recovered.

Residents of the city are required by law to register their bicycles at the finance department of city hall, said Margory Donati, billing officer for the city.

The charge is $2 per year, and the bicycles are registered for a three-year period. Donati said that students who have bikes registered in their homes or at Cal Poly are not required to notify the public.

See BIKES, page 4

Thief of bicycles, parts are up, SLO police say
By Kelly Hagerty

A recent statistic has sent a warning to bicycle owners that theft in San Luis Obispo is a reality.

Last week the San Luis Obispo Police Department reported that in a three-day period $2,000 worth of bikes were stolen. According to Crime Prevention Officer Mike Kennedy concerned.

"The key is to make people aware (of the problem)," Kennedy said last week.

Two incidents have been reported to Public Safety since WWII, and he expects the numbers to match last year's.

Unfortunately, Kennedy said, no matter how many precautions are taken to protect a bike, it can be stolen if a thief is determined enough. He recalled an incident in which the residence halls where a student locked her bike up.

See THEFT, page 7

Insight ...
Find out how students confront daily challenges with the help of Disabled Student Services.

Today's weather ...
Patchy morning fog and mostly sunny in the afternoon.
High: 89 degrees
Low: 47 degrees
N.W. winds up to 20 mph
Opinion

City residents need new bikeway system

San Luis Obispo is desperately in need of an improved bikeway system. The City Council has expressed concern over this issue but little has been done so far. Yet, they insist that city residents, especially the students, should use bikes for transportation and leave their smog-producing cars at home.

Most of the byways of this city are simply not safe for bikes. The dangerous intersection of California Boulevard and Poole Street, through which many student bicycle commuters must pass, was obviously not designed to accommodate bikes. Councilmember Bill Roalman has called this intersection, "a disaster area for bikes."

The answer to this problem lies in establishing a bikeway system throughout the city. The ideal path would be along the Southern Pacific Railroad property which extends through town. A bikeway on this property would create a nearly straight trail connecting the campus area to the south end of town, thus making biking to Cal Poly a much more attractive alternative to driving.

The college towns of Palo Alto and Davis already have built extensive bikeway systems. Palo Alto has a "Bicycle Boulevard" — a two-mile stretch leading from a residential area to the downtown on which no automobile traffic is permitted, and even the cross traffic is required to yield to bicyclists.

Nearly one-third of Davis streets have bike lanes, in addition to about 20 miles of separate bike paths. It is estimated that nearly 25 percent of all around-town trips in Davis are made by bicycle.

As an environmentalist who uses his bicycle as his primary mode of transportation, he should be leading the way in developing a bikeway system that could rival that of Palo Alto and Davis.

Councilmember Peg Pinard also has urged Poly students to bike to campus. The City Council needs to give people more and safer bikeways if we are to be expected to leave our cars at home and opt for the environmentally cleaner form of transportation.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words. They should include the writer's name, address, phone number and major title. Submit letters to Room 226 of the Graphic Arts building. They may be edited for length, clarity or factual content. Comment on the Opinion editor at 756-1143 if you wish to write a guest column.

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Power plants should not treat toxic waste as normal garbage

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission passed a new policy in June which has been in a state of existence since the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 but is just now being further developed.

This new policy is called the Below Regulatory Concerns (BRC). The BRC will allow approximately 30 percent of the nation's "low-level" radioactive waste to be treated as normal garbage.

Trash companies now will be able to pick up radioactive waste on daily garbage rounds under the BRC rule. Radioactive waste will be treated as normal garbage.

Low-level waste is defined as the little forms of contamination found primarily on the clothing, coats and gloves worn by maintenance workers taking care of the reactors.

The primary reason for the BRC policy is economics. It is simply economically wiser for nuclear facilities to dispose of low-level waste in the least costly way possible. Throwing out waste with the morning's trash is far cheaper than packaging and hauling that same waste to a dumping and burial site.

Many nuclear power plants are concerned about public image under the BRC rule.

Realistically, though, it is hard to believe how the temerity of substantial economic savings would not at some point override the concern for a positive public image.

It is disturbing that, as with many other business decisions, the economic gain possibly could be enough of a positive incentive to encourage such a lax and careless disposal of low-level waste.

This new policy should be a large concern to the residents of San Luis Obispo because of the close proximity of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Diablo Canyon, says the BRC, has no intentions of working under this new disposal option.

The BRC policy is not mandatory. It is simply an alternative presented to nuclear plants.

This simple alternative, however, could create complex problems.

Technically, power plants do not have to tell the public if they are using the BRC policy. They may tell the public that they are not dumping toxic waste as normal trash and may, in fact, be doing so.

According to Cal Poly natural resource management professor Doug Piotti, there is a good chance that this new policy, among other problems, could create some degree of water contamination.

The implementation of such a policy could put at risk the safety of our drinking water, the health of those picking up the plant's disposal and the overall health of the community. It is impossible to understand the ramifications of such a policy 10 or 20 years down the road.

It is understood that there is an economic factor in everything that is produced. It is also understood that new and more productive means to economically dispose of toxic waste must be created to maintain an affordable price for electricity.

However, the minute that economies become a higher priority than the value and well-being of local residents is when the balance between the dollar and progress must be examined.

Some may say it's a crime that we are allowed to dispose of aluminum cans, which should be recycled, and plastic foam containers, which should not even be produced. But the real crime comes in allowing Congress to tell nuclear facilities that they have the right to toss their low-level waste along with their used lunch bags and office supplies.

There must be a concern for the citizens who are now going to be exposed to the nuclear waste. Not only will this waste be accessible to the average citizen, but it could be potentially threatening to the number of individuals who are employed by the sanitation industry.

The economic gain of such a policy is far less substantial than the possible danger to a human life.

As citizens of San Luis Obispo, it is our responsibility to act as "watch-dogs" for such a policy.

Because it is no longer a requirement for nuclear power plants to watch out for the well-being of citizens, the responsibility now must belong to the people.

Industrial progress is to the advantage of everybody and should be, therefore, the responsibility of everybody. However, if the government and companies running the power plants have the economics and intelligence to create and work with nuclear power, then it only makes sense that they should utilize that same economics and intelligence to dispose of their waste safely.
East Germany spends final day as a nation

BERLIN (AP) — East Germany spent a melancholy last day as a nation Tuesday before passing into history, leaving behind 40 clasped hands in farewell, the first freely embracing as a free country.

The museum devoted to the former nation’s history laid off some workers and began closing departments. West Germany meeting, and the chief government spokesman said he was looking for work.

The nation’s history laid off some workers and spokesman said he was looking for work.

Spud called lifesaver for hungry population

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists say the humble potato may offer the world a second surprise car owners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists say the humble potato may offer the world a second surprise.

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Exterminator bugged for portrayal in movie

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Thousands of California car owners couldn’t believe the bills they were getting from the Department of Motor Vehicles — and they were right.

At least 100,000 vehicle owners were overcharged or undercharged hundreds of thousands of dollars in license fees when a DMV computer went amok last week.

Julie Castro was shocked when she opened her car registration bill, expecting to pay about $130 to license her 1987 Hyundai. Instead, the bill was for $1,344.

Car owners whose registrations expired Nov. 14, 16 or 20 have been receiving the bills for the past several days, some have been asked to pay up to $6,000 to register their vehicles.

The computer came up with the wild numbers after it mixed up the years and makes of cars. Newer, more valuable cars are supposed to cost more to license, but the goof sent owners of late model Porsches bills for $116, while owners of older Volkswagen beetles were dinged for $1,500.

DMV computer goof surprises car owners

Exterminator bugged for portrayal in movie

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Poly prof takes post in tropics

Adviser to aid college farming in Costa Rica

By Mara Wildfeuer

A professor from the agricultural education department has been named chief adviser to the Agricultural College of the Humid Tropic Regions in Costa Rica.

Robert Flores was appointed chief of party by the Dean of the School of Agriculture, Lurk P. Corte, for the Agricultural Development (US AID) and the university.

Flore's duties will significantly differ from Rathbun's because Rathbun's responsibilities involved the development of the school, and Flores will work with curriculum and students. The school began its first term of instruction last March, with 60 students from eight Latin American countries. Teachers there believe their position as chief of party means that he will be involved with doing the work of the school farm.

"To be in charge of installing a hands-on approach and an educational philosophy," Flores said last week before he left for Costa Rica.

Cal Poly's involvement with the Agricultural College of the Humid Tropic Regions began in 1985 when the university received a 10-year contract and established support for the Costa Rican college's development. The University of Nebraska is the other main support university in the project.

Joseph Sabol, assistant dean of the School of Agriculture, said Cal Poly's main goal is to act as a consultative agent, modifying the "learn by doing" approach to agriculture to the humid tropics.

"Cal Poly doesn't want to go to Costa Rica and tell the people how they should farm," he said. "We can, however, make suggestions."

Costa Rica has the highest amount of deforestation in proportion to land mass in Central America, Sabol said. One of the goals of the school is to develop ecologically feasible farming.

Sabol said there is no place to stash a stolen bike on campus, Baranek said. There are two types of bicycle thefts on campus, Baranek said. Inexpensive, unlocked bikes are stolen as pranks or for quick transportation. Expensive bikes are stolen for parts or their value.

Baranek said theft of a bicycle valued at $400 or less is petty theft, a misdemeanor. Stealing a bike worth more than $400 is grand theft, a felony. There is a low incidence of bike thefts on campus, Baranek said, because stolen bikes are usually taken off campus. "There is no place to stash a stolen bike in the dorms," he said.

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Rick Best travels along his 'path of least resistance''

Rick Best does more than 'sit around.' Although he has been cruising around in his wheelchair as long as most of us have been walking, nothing has stopped Best from working hard to achieve his dreams.

Best is in his fourth year at Cal Poly as a civil engineering major. He often faces obstacles that are unfamiliar to most students. Best is proving that he is more than capable of meeting any challenges that come his way.

Best is only one of many disabled students at Cal Poly who has successfully adapted to his disability and is enjoying a rich and active college life.

'I don't really think about being disabled,' Best said. 'I do the best that I can within my personal limitations. But that's all anyone can do.'

Best was injured at birth when his arm became stuck behind his head. The doctor had to pull Best's arm down and in the process bruised his spine. Best is now 'T2 paralyzed, just below the armpits and down to the toes.'

'It's just one of those things,' Best said. 'There's nothing I can do about it now. I have to focus on the here and now, not what could have been.'

In addition to a full load of classes this quarter, Best is the secretary of Disabled Students Unlimited (DSU). DSU is a club formed by a variety of disabled students at Cal Poly whose main purpose is to promote awareness of disabilities on campus. In addition, Best is the chairperson of the Campus Recycling Coalition.

Best says that his goal is to enjoy keeping busy. 'I used to tutor Cal Poly students for 10 hours a week last year.' Best said. 'Although I found it very rewarding, sometimes it was disappointing when they didn't get the grade I wanted them to.'

Best also places a lot of importance on education. He is no stranger to academic success and has worked very hard to maintain his 3.75 grade point average at Cal Poly. He received college scholarship money based upon his high school performance and entered Cal Poly as a 17-year-old freshman.

Best plans to get a philosophy minor in addition to his engineering degree to further round out his education.

Best is originally from Thousand Oaks and is looking forward to returning home for Christmas to see his parents and four older brothers who are scattered all over the state.

Best attributes much of his positive outlook on life and his success in school to his parents. Both were college graduates and always have encouraged their sons to pursue an education. All of his brothers have gone to college and two of them are now in graduate school.

'I was never treated any differently from any of my brothers,' Best said. 'Of course I've had a lot of physical problems, but they (my parents) have never expected any less of me.'

'It was tough going my first two years at Cal Poly. In addition to the normal adjustments any freshman has to make, there was the added stress of my financial situation,' he said.

Best has bills of more than $300 each month for medical services and supplies. This year he receives Medi-Cal stickers, which

See BEST, page 8

DISABLED AND UNDAUNTED

Disabled Student Services makes learning possible

Disabled Students Services' (DDS) growth has exploded more than 100 percent within the last two years, assisting even more disabled students at Cal Poly by giving them the opportunity to receive the best education possible.

'Disabled Student Services' main purpose is to help the disabled students at Cal Poly become as independent as possible," said Beth Currier, assistant coordinator for DDS. "We want to help disabled students with their difficulties so that they can receive an equal education to the student who is not disabled.'

In fall of 1987, DDS reached out to 286 students on campus. There are now more than 600 students receiving their services. It had to move its office last year to accommodate its growing needs for space, privacy for counseling.

DDS sprouted quickly after the public law 94-142 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was implemented. The non-discrimination statute and the regulations issued under it guarantees a right of entrance for students with disabilities into our nation's colleges and universities, their mainstreaming into the classrooms, as well as their participation in the university setting as a whole according to Lynn M. Smith, author of 'The College Student with a Disability: A Faculty Handbook.'

Disabled students fall under one of two categories: temporarily or permanently disabled. The temporarily disabled is a student who only needs DDS's services for a short period of time. They include, for example, students who sprain their ankles and have limited mobility or students with broken wrists and unable to write. DDS can step in to transport students around campus or assign students notetakers.

Permanently disabled, on the other hand, are students who need the ongoing assistance of DDS throughout their education at Cal Poly. There are five categories of permanently disabled students. Those with learning disabilities make up 50 percent of the permanently disabled. These students are usually dyslexic or have problems with reading, writing or perceiving number groups. Those students that travel by the aid of a dog, wheelchair or other assistive devices are considered mobility disabled.

The functionally disabled are students with hidden disabilities. This category encompasses stu...
WORLD

From page 3

He said he is not optimistic about a role in the new German government.

About 220,000 government workers nationwide automatically went into employment limbo. They will receive about 70 percent of their pay while West German officials decide how many to keep.

"I know I'm out of work," admitted chief East German government spokesman Matthias Gehler.

NATION

From page 3

ion," which started in the 1960s and kept millions alive by developing high-yield strains of rice, corn and wheat, but never fully lived up to its promise. At a conference here Monday and Tuesday on 'Feeding the Global Village,' the potato was held up as a potential lifesaver for the half of the world that is hungry. It was called a "power food," packed with protein and vitamin C, potassium, iron and magnesium.

STATE

From page 2

in Superior Court, Orkin said it agreed to pay $20,000 in a deal to portray the company in a favor­able light. But "Pacific Heights" represented Orkin as "unwilling or unable to perform competent ex­termination services," the suit said. The contract specified the company would be shown in a "non-disparaging" manner. The suit also said promised changes in the script to protect Orkin's reputation were not made.

NRC

From page 1

"Technically, they wouldn't have to tell the public," said McDermott. "They could be us­ing the landfills for waste but tell us something different. You must be careful with semantics of what is being said in press relations."

Cal. Poly Natural Resource Management professor Doug Pirtio said that any radioactive wastes in dumpsters could cause environmental safety problems. "The problem is that the landfills are not sealed," said Pirtio. "There is a good chance of some degree of water contamination and other problems."

McDermott said that economics is the primary reason for the policy being developed. Utility companies also could be creating their own landfills, she said. Pirtio believes that economics have to take a second-stace to the consequences of radioactive wastes on human society. "It doesn't seem appropriate that low-level radioactive mate­rials of any kind should be disposed in our landfills," said Pirtio.

"If they have the economics to deal with nuclear power, they should have the economics to safely get rid of its wastes."

SCIENCE

From page 3

many activities planned for this year. The club will organize excursions to Air Force bases, air traf­fic radar control installations, air shoes and aviation symposiums. The organizers of the club ex­pect to maintain a reference library of aviation publications, including books, periodicals and videocassettes. The Mustang Aviation Club also will o&fer seminars and speeches presented by repre­sentatives from the fields of aviation and aerospace. Faculty advisers for the aviation club is Daniel Biezad, an aeronautical engineering pro­fessor. The Mustang Aviation Club is open to pilots, aeronautical engineering majors or anyone interested in the aeronautical field.

The club will hold its first meeting Monday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Graphic Arts building, Room 104. For more details, call Lipper or Cardozo at 544-4636.

Information for today's column was provided by the Mustang Aviation Club.

SCIENCE

Hand Carved French Dip Sandwiches

Salad Bar-Fish + Chips

1/3 lb Burgers-Steak Sandwiches

Daily Specials-Chowder

Heineken-Budweiser-SLO Brewing on tap

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Are sold at the auction because bikes are not claimed by the

Kennedy said the best way to avoid being a victim is to
take extra care when leaving bikes unattended. He sug-
gested looking bikes with a U-

Sales of stolen bikes are at

He said that he could not

reported. Most bikes are usually
easy, Seybold said. He said

the bike and reporting the

bike theft immediately is the best way
to control the problem.
A disabled student does not have to feel alone," Currier said.

One of the best ways to help the disabled students at Cal Poly is by becoming aware of their presence on campus and their special needs, Currier said. The Disabled Students Unlimited Speaker's Bureau is providing a list of special problems. The speaker's bureau speaks free of charge to Cal Poly students, community organizations and elementary schools.

"Everyone should hear our speakers," Currier said. "They get an early window into the experience of all of the students at Cal Poly get a better understanding of the disabled. Our growth is proof."

"These three formulate the student's self-esteem and attitude toward success with a disability. And this often determines whether a disabled student will seek us out or not."