Republican leaders gathered at a local train station to greet House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other politicians riding the "Victory Express" train to the national GOP convention in San Diego.

The Amtrak train pulled into San Luis Obispo station at approximately 11 a.m. Saturday to meet about 150 people waiting on a designated parking lot adjac­ent to the train platform.

Gingrich appeared and spoke for about 20 minutes before the train arrived, inviting the crowd to join him in supporting Bob Dole's campaign for presidency, and his running mate Jack Kemp.

"If you think Washington is too big and spends too much money, you have a team. You have Dole and Kemp and the Republican ticket," he said.

Gingrich also said supporting the GOP ticket would mean supporting lower taxes and reducing the number of bureaucrats in the capitol.

"If you are a family of four with a $30,000 yearly income and want the Dole-Kemp plan, you will get smaller taxes," he said. "You will keep $1,272 in your budget, so that you as parents can spend more on your children."

Once the train arrived, more than a dozen Republicans filed onto the platform, including Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle, former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Rep. Michael Huffington, and former United Nations Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick.

After Pringle addressed the crowd endorsing Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand (R-Shell Beach) and Assemblyman Tom Bordenaro (R-33rd District), Gingrich spoke again with a similar message.

He acknowledged the presence of several Bill Clinton supporters, who arrived with about 100 other demonstrators urging his first speech.

"We have a few friends here with Clinton signs," he said. "I just hope you invite them to go to grocery stores (to campaign) with you. When the people come by you explain that you want to give money back to them and you let them explain why Clinton wants to keep (the money) in Washington."

Before Gingrich, both Seastrand and Bordenaro spoke and helped the crowd practice their cheering skills.

Seastrand highlighted some of the Republicans' accomplishments in Congress and urged continued support.

As she listed Republican achievements of balancing the budget, reforming the welfare system and reducing the national debt, Gingrich was amazed at the speech given by the president.

"Even if you don't agree with his politics," she said. "He is still the leader of the Free World and that was exciting."

Fritter gained a new respect for the president, with whom she shook hands.

"He was a real person and I never thought of him that way," she added. "He's a great speaker and I'm impressed with his public relations abilities."

Representative Andrea Seastrand provided Cal Poly ACT members a personal tour of the Capitol Building that included the Boggs Women's Library and the private offices of Newt Gingrich.

"Attending the conference and understanding how the president speaks reflects what we are promoting in our work," said Students page 3

Poly students travel to Washington for ag talks, Clinton meeting

By Michael Fadness
Summer Staff Writer

Members of the Cal Poly chapter of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) spent five days in the nation's capital for the National ACT Conference that included a lunch with President Bill Clinton.

Seventy-five ACT members from 15 universities, along with over 400 agriculture professionals, attended the conference held July 14-18.

ACT is a national organization for college students interested in the field of agricultural communication, including news and editorial writing and public relations.

According to Dr. J. Scott Vernon, national ACT adviser and co-director of the Brock Center for Agricultural Communication, most students were from the Midwest. Cal Poly was the only Western representative attending the conference.

Melissa Fornof, Stacy Fritter, Dana Krumwide and Tiffany Rauser joined Vernon in representing the university at the conference.

Embedded in the conference was an awards ceremony in which Cal Poly took second place in the country, behind Oklahoma State University for agricultural writing and reporting.

The conference involved workshops that discussed internet use in agriculture, issues in agricul-

ture from a policy standpoint and various writing clinics.
Volunteers needed to build low-income housing in Mexico

By Otto Mae Bed
Summer Staff Writer

You could help a Mexican family fulfill their dream of owning a new home.

A group of local volunteers are heading to Tijuana, Mexico to build low-income housing for residents of the booming border town. The local chapter of Esperanza International is looking for others to join the group on its September 8-14 trip.

Since the passage of NAFTA, towns along the border have seen assembly plants for foreign contracts of the booming border town. As quick as they can scour the hills looking for materials to put up shanty towns, there are people trying to build their own home, but the homes of others in the program as well.

Because of the boom of maquiladora, unemployment in the border town is as low as one percent, but the housing shortage is severe. Bob O'Brien, a former volunteer said, "It's like a frontier town. As quick as they can build the center, they'll still have to raise efforts for the project."

"We're looking to build an arts center for the community," said Gammon. "Any student projects in a project to see completion. But he'd be happy if it did.

"They may only use elements of my design, they may use parts of it, or they may not use any of it," Gammon said. "The Allied Arts Association, was the principle designer on the Copeland's Downtown Centre, a project credited with revitalizing the downtown area of San Luis Obispo."

"I think you'll find that locally the majority of practicing architects are Cal Poly graduates," Cooke said. "That's both a curse and blessing because not all of them can make a living in this small area."

Gammon doesn't have any false hopes that his project will be the first commercial student project to see completion. But he'd be happy if it did.

"At this point it's all theoretical," Gammon said. "The Allied Arts people don't have money to build and they don't have any property. I believe the hypothetical scenario is that it may get built, or it may never get built. But the idea is that the design may help generate some fund-raising efforts for the project."

"If they do eventually build the center, they'll still have to go to a licensed architect to have the plans drawn," added Gammon. "They may only use elements of my design, they may use all of it, or they may not use any of it at all."

"The only type of things where student involvement in a project may see completion is if they're working on a private home," added Cooke. "Some projects in residential areas were designed by students."

There are, however, plenty of examples of Cal Poly architecture graduates who have become professional architects in the area and gone on to design important commercial or public projects. For instance Mark Rawson, an '87 grad and a partner in APS Architects, was the principal designer on the Copeland's Downtown Centre, a project credited with revitalizing the downtown area of San Luis Obispo.

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NEWT: Supporters, opponents turn out to listen to local GOP event

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1996

NEWT: Supporters, opponents turn out to listen to local GOP event

From page 1

ITEM, and establishing a line-item veto the crowd cheered in support.

They also voiced their support when Gingrich announced, "Dole is a better man for a better America."

Bordenaro also attempted to convince the crowd to share his support for Dole, drawing a similarity between himself and the presidential candidate who have both held political offices despite physical disabilities.

"He's the type of fighter we need in the White House," said Bordenaro from his wheelchair. "He understands personal sacrifice in the face of service."

Instead of having the crowd practice its cheering techniques by spelling out "Victory," as Sestrain had led them, Bordenaro spelled out "Fight," and asked them if they were ready.

Amid the crowd, many people wore red, white and blue variations of flags from vests to ties, and one young Republican fan wore a "Life's a Hillary! Vote Republican!" sticker across the seat of her skirt.

Another Republican Clancy McConnell of San Luis Obispo used his attire, a white suit complete with foppish lap and purple sequin details, to accent his political statement. Wearing large, dark sunglasses, "the King" impersonator held a sign that read, "If you believe Bill Clinton, then I'm the real Elvis."

"I just wanted to let it be known that not all young people are liberals, which is stereotypically assumed. There are a lot of your Republicans out there," she said adding that her six-member group formed in January in response to a liberal group that formed on campus.

About 150 feet away from the rally area, about 100 demonstrators had marched up Santa Rosa Street to the other side of the station house. As they walked by flashing their signs and buttons towards the rally attendees, they chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho. Dole and Seastead get out!"

"It got testy at times. The crowd of the people just kept pestering the Dole and they wanted them to leave well alone," she said, "But there were no answers. We didn't know how many people were hurt or what had happened."

McDowell said his greatest experience at the Olympics was "an incredible," he said. "It was like the Olympics and this was not going to ruin our Games." McDowell said Tuesday that a group of people from Atlanta have a lot to be proud of even if the Olympic Games should have been held in Athens, Greece to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the modern Olympic Games.

"I won't say nationalities, but some foreign press members were very obvious in making the Olympics in Athens," McDowell said. "They came with the idea that it would be a failure in any city other than Athens."

McDowell said it was unbelievable how many students in other countries made the journey to Atlanta.

"To see people from all over the world in downtown Atlanta was incredible," he said. "It was like the United Nations."

From page 1

Anyone in the ACT program paid $75 per person.

This sponsorship allowed students to pay only $280 for a trip that was estimated at $800-$900 per person.

BOMB: arrests of those responsible imminent

From page 1

agricultural communication at Cal Poly, Vernon said, "In the Brick Center, and with the ACT, we are trying to provide students valuable experiences that will help them to become better communicators about agriculture."

Anyone in the ACT program was able to attend the conference. Fund-raisers including a barbeque and candy bar sale, along with corporate sponsorship from California Poultry Industries and the California Farm Bureau paid a portion of the way for the Cal Poly ACT members.

"I think it's a way for students to experience the games in other countries," said McDowell.

"I think it's a way for students to experience the games in other countries," he said. "It was like the United Nations."

From page 1

"It was the most exciting thing in this town today," said 17-year-old Lacey Greene. "I can't vote but I can do."

"I was one of the happiest people in this country today," said Creelea Henderson, a Cuesta student. "I think we're changing the flows (of) people."

"I can't vote but I can do."
As Robert Heinlein said, the answer to any question that starts with "Why don't they..." is "Money." So why don't they do the maintenance renovations in the area near the Business building during our break instead of the last weeks of school when we desperately need our concentration? Maybe they're getting a deal with Mustang Village. They're also doing some maintenance, resurfacing a parking lot. So all we denizens of the Village get to live with the lovely aroma one usually only associates with the La Brea Tar Pits or the San Fernando Valley on an exceptionally hot day. It's wonderful, really.

I'm surprised they don't charge us extra for this privilege. Somewhere out there, the person who dreams us the Mustang Village rent rates is saying, "Yeah, an aromatic surcharge. They've been getting that smell of raw manure when the wind is right for a century or two. And we're paying for those tar flowers. We should pass the cost on.

And why don't they take cards at the state cashier's office? Every tiny little vendor at the farmers market can get an entertainment card that read "Master Card and Mistress Visa Honoured Here." I asked the cashier that when I, at great peril to my life and psychological well-being, had to cut the wheelbarrows full of cash necessary to pay my registration fee from the Versatile to the Administration building. She said, "I don't know, but they're going to have to." Maybe they can get a deal and have Mustang Village get them too.

Almost any question a college student attending classes where the professor lectures every day on depressing things like the destruction of the world, genocide and the prevalence of multiple personality is t-shirts in public can be answered, simply, "Money." Why don't they stop chopping down the rain forests? Why don't they stop dumping garbage in the ocean? Why don't they up with an energy source that doesn't do irreparable damage to human beings' environment? Why don't they make people stop killing each other for silly reasons like religion and ethnicity? I think the problem with this is the root of the question, "Why don't they?" People always do what makes them most comfortable and profitable to them. The problem underlying a lot of our present problems is that people can do nasty things that are profitable without any repercussions. Power companies can build highly polluting plants on Indian reservations because the government says they can, despite how the Indians feel about it.

Ranchers can keep burning down rain forests to graze cattle on it for approximately 23 seconds before it becomes infertile because their governments get kickbacks from it. The governments remain in power for even less time than it takes cleared rain forest to become infertile, so it makes sense for them to let them be burned. (Keep in mind I know almost nothing about what I'm writing about. These are general principles.)

I think the answer groups like the Sierra Club and Greenpeace. If everyone donated a bunch of money to them, they could buy up a bunch of land then patrol it so people don't do nasty (and yet profitable) stuff do it. Remember the recent, fine film "Flipper." An evil guy (you could say he was evil because he went to bars to drink alcohol, was surrounded by overweight women and shot at dolphins for fun, whereas the good guy, Crocodile Dundee, who runs around Screaming at Farmers Market, people on them are those not good enough to get on "Babewatch." She's just jealous.) by hurling the bad guys head with rotten trout.

So we can't battle evil like Hercules and Xena (two vastly underrated shows, though my sister says the people on them are those not good enough to get on "Babewatch." She's just jealous.)

So we all have to work on making our world a nice place to live for dolphins and people. Or we could just shoot all the evil people, but that's illegal in some jurisdictions. And besides, the buitlo cost money.

Dawn Pillsbury is a journalism senior. She has heard that none of you have written in to Matt this summer. If you don't, she will come after you and pound you on the head with rotten trout.
**ARTS**

**Thursday, August 15, 1996**

**CUB THEATER**

**Box Office of Air**

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**Blue Guitar**

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**August 16 through 25.**

**Tribe Called Quest**

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Available at the Granada Theatre.

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WEDNESDAY

9 p.m. $1 cover.

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9 p.m. $1 cover.

FRIDAY

9 p.m. $1 cover.

SATURDAY

9 p.m. $1 cover.

SUNDAY

9 p.m. $1 cover.

**Special:**

- Singer, songwriter, musician Karl Anthony plays a variety of entertainment at 7 p.m., Monday, August 19, at the Unity Church. For information: 543-4250.

- Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera presents "NUNSENSE" from August 16 through 25.

-ٿ Walker's* Wanda Panduren and others read poetry at Lincolnes Cafe, 7:30 p.m.

- Klan Kastle Rock & Roll Night Party/Dishwasher play SLO Brew at 9 p.m. $5 cover.

**Hikers make pit stop in SLO**

**By Justin MacIntosh**

**Summer Mustang**

**It's more than just a hop, skip and a jump.**

**The California coastline comprises 15 counties and is over 1,000 miles long. COASTWALK members are hiking in support of a continuing, continuous California coastal trail and coastal preservation.**

**They reached San Luis Obispo August 12, with over 700 miles completed and only five more counties left.**

As they have done throughout the previous nine counties, hike members of COASTWALK hosted a meeting and slide show to inform the public of the California Coastal Trail.

"The trail is not really known very well," said Tom McFarling, hike coordinator for COASTWALK. "It's not on all of the maps, it's not signed well and it's not complete."

According to McFarling, 700 miles of the coast already have signed trails accessible to the public. He said the remaining coastline is largely private property and may never reach public status.

"There are still gaps out there," McFarling said. "There will probably be pieces that never get paved in part of the trail."

But awareness is the key, said COASTWALK founder, Bill Kortum. The original idea was to get county residents involved locally and physically by enjoying a walk down the beach.

"I think it has become a permanent fixture, as people hear about it they want to participate," Kortum said. "So we've gradually building a constituency that will speak out for coastal matters."

Since the first walk in 1983 through Sonoma County there have been more than three thousand participants and according to McFarling those numbers count.

"When issues come up that require action out acting out their parts.

Chad Stevens, who plays leading male Nathan Detroit, said there were cheers from the audience when the lights came on. He compared the noise and enthusiasm to a standing ovation.

"After a 45 minute delay from retesting equipment and getting people seated, the show began.

"In my view, this show was better than opening night's show because there was so much nervous energy. Everyone was just happy the show could go on," Stevens said.

Stevens admitted that regardless of the outrage everyone was in good spirits because of the special occasion. The audience remained for the show and the gala after the lights came on. He compared the noise and enthusiasm to a standing ovation.

"For our outrage that left the stage at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

**Rockabilly and roll to Mother's Tavern for $10 at 9:30 p.m.**

**Guys and Dolls and the anniversary celebration on Aug. 25.**

"This was the quintessential theater experience," she said. "We were against all odds. The behind-the-scenes people were fantastic."

Cocktails were served under the lighting of generators and candles as anticipation for the program grew stronger. At approximately 7:40 p.m. the lights illuminated the theater and the alternative options were nullified.

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STUDENT: Cambria wants an arts center that is community oriented.

From page 2

a 7,000- to 10,000-sq. foot facility which should contain an assembly hall which may be rented for banquets or weddings, an art gallery, a performing arts theater, offices and classrooms.

"They want an arts center that's very community oriented," Gammon said. "The project can be phased in over a period of years. For instance, they want to build the performing arts theater part of the project first, using it to present shows and generate income for the future phases of the project. They could build it slowly over six or 10 years."

Allied Arts Director Judith Jonnes is counting on the community to support the project. She hopes land will be donated and that funds can be raised. Currently Allied Arts is using the small School House Gallery, but the facility is too small for their projects like the currently running "I Love Letters." Francisco.

"There are some wealthy people up there," said Gammon. "The area is very artistically oriented—lots of artists and supporters of the arts. If fund-raising goes well, it could be a facility that actually gets built."

Gammon was personally chosen this summer by Gilbert Coke who is advising him during a independent studies project.

"I've got some experience outside of school," said Gammon who has worked at RMO Architects in Grover Beach for the last seven years. "I've worked as a draftsman and designer. This past year I've been splitting my time—half and half—between school and work.

"In some respects I'm further along than the average student," added Gammon who expects to graduate in about two years. "But in other respects I may not be as far along. But I think Gil Coke felt I had enough knowledge to take on the project."

If the project goes well, Coke may offer it to some of his professors to assign to their regular third year architecture classes in fall. There may be a whole cadre of students helping to design the facility, allowing Allied Arts to pick and choose their design.

While Coke said he's confident in Gammon's ability to design a quality project, he believes the assignment may help other students get some real world experience.

"Our feeling in the department [architecture] is that anytime we can take on a project that meets our pedagogic needs, we're interested in it," said Coke. "I'm just glad to see Mark [Gammon] getting some press," he added. "He's worked very hard this past year and he also has a substantial amount of experience in the real world. He's worked at the same architecture firm for a number of years."

Gammon expects to finish his design by the end of summer quarter. After that it will be out of his hands and into the hands of Allied Arts.

OrixA: The band adds a blend of musical styles into its songs

From page 5

Francisco.

Orixa has been able to skillfully blend their musical styles and experiences to form a sound that reflects the dynamic cultural center they inhabit. The blending of musical styles is evident when listening to songs like "Sacúdete," an upbeat Latin ska tune, or "Xicano." Orixa has also blended songs like "El Abe," an acoustic ballad and "Masica de Alma," a powerful chant about Elbeja, the childlike messenger, deity of the crossroads of life, that the band integrates into their music.

Orixa's self-titled album was produced by David "Leather Sax" Orixa is equally confident with "There's a great sense of community to write or protect the coast, then we've got those people," McFarling said. After 12 years of hiking coastline in individual counties, COASTWALK decided to tackle something larger and combined the entire coast.

"This is the first time we've ever done this," said Petersen. "We've also had lots of prepare," said Hofman. "One time we'd be in 92-year-old people. There's a job for everyone."

Volunteers work six to eight hours a day, but the rest of the time is theirs to use as they wish.

"I really liked taking off after work," said O'Brien. "It's the free ride to the coast. I could go to Tijuana."

"The Mexican people were really wonderful," he added. "There's a great sense of community there and they really made us feel welcome."

"The living conditions for volunteers is somewhat rustic. And the work can be physically taxing."

"You have to be fairly strong," said O'Brien. "And the living conditions aren't great. It's basically a glorified camping trip. You stay in a boarding house that charges $5 a night and have to go out and find plumbing. The bed is awful, it's not great. The house was probably built by found lumber."

Even so, O'Brien said, the trip was an enriching one that he would recommend to anyone.

According to Hofman, it will cost volunteers about $1,200 to $1,200 to make the trip. Housing is $5 per night, and meals run about $2 per meal. There's a $20 charge for gas and $20 for car insurance. Volunteers must sign a waiver in case of accidents, but according to Hofman, no one has ever been seriously injured during past trips. Volunteers are also responsible for their own spending money and for meals coming and going on the trip to Tijuana.

"It's really a growth experience," said Hofman. "People that have gone down—it's really opened their eyes. And it's not just about building housing; it's educational. We have volunteers who are interested in the socio-economic conditions in Mexico, about the corruption. It becomes quickly apparent why those in their alt want to come to the United States."

"We were delighted with the permission," McFarling said. "We had to have that this is only a one time event."

The wall has been encouraging local participation for each county and response has been high, according to McFarling. In San Luis Obispo County, support with both participation and access has been strong. The Hearst Coastal Conservancy, owner of most coastal property in northern California, is helping out with access to their land. PG&E also granted access through Avila Canyon, nor- mortally a highly restricted area.

"There are so many wealthy peo-ple there," said Gammon. "The area is very artistically oriented—lots of artists and supporters of the arts. If fund-raising goes well, it could be a facility that actually gets built."

Gammon was personally chosen this summer by Gilbert Coke who is advising him during an independent studies project.

"I've got some experience outside of school," said Gammon who has worked at RMO Architects in Grover Beach for the last seven years. "I've worked as a draftsman and designer. This past year I've been splitting my time—half and half—between school and work.

"In some respects I'm further along than the average student," added Gammon who expects to graduate in about two years. "But in other respects I may not be as far along. But I think Gil Coke felt I had enough knowledge to take on the project."

If the project goes well, Coke may offer it to some of his professors to assign to their regular third year architecture classes in fall. There may be a whole cadre of students helping to design the facility, allowing Allied Arts to pick and choose their design.

While Coke said he's confident in Gammon's ability to design a quality project, he believes the assignment may help other students get some real world experience.

"Our feeling in the department [architecture] is that anytime we can take on a project that meets our pedagogic needs, we're interested in it," said Coke. "I'm just glad to see Mark [Gammon] getting some press," he added. "He's worked very hard this past year and he also has a substantial amount of experience in the real world. He's worked at the same architecture firm for a number of years."

Gammon expects to finish his design by the end of summer quarter. After that it will be out of his hands and into the hands of Allied Arts.

OrixA: The band adds a blend of musical styles into its songs

From page 5

Francisco.

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Orixa's self-titled album was produced by David "Leather Sax" Orixa is equally confident with "There's a great sense of community PETERSEN said. "We need women who depict the county. We need women who depict Mexican border September 20.

"We need women who depict different groups of women in the commission," Petersen said. "Some members have no clue as to what it is like to be on food stamps or welfare or who struggle for housing.

Petersen said some current commissioners are over-committed.

"All of the women's time is stretched pretty thin," Petersen said. "We would like new members with some time to put in to the Commission." Commissioners have an ongoing relationship with Supervisor in their District and keep them informed of the women's issues, Thiessen said.

The Commission has a booth set up at the Farmers Market during the month of August celebrating Unsung Heroines in SLO County, Petersen said.

"The booth recognizes women in the county who would not normally get the recognition they deserve for their efforts in the community," Petersen said.

Women interested in more information on membership can call Pamela Thiessen at 234-0419.

The Commission meets the second Monday of every month at 6:15 p.m. at the Vets Building in San Luis.
ORIXA: Latino musicians living in the United States retain their cultural and musical heritage and add new ones

In Orixa's music, listeners discover five Latino musicians living in the United States who have not lost their cultural and musical heritage and who are not afraid to fuse the sounds of many cultures to create a new one. The fusion of different musical styles and languages are some of the reasons why Rock En Español will probably play a major role in the music scene in the years to come. Bands such as "Masas Negras" from France and "Todos Tus Muertos" from Argentina sing in various languages and play different musical styles. These bands have been doing it for several years. They have large followings in Europe, Latin America and now in the United States.

Pedro Arroyo is the host of Aztlán, Babylon, Rhythm and Blues, KCPR's Rock En Español radio program. The program airs Monday Nights from 11-1 a.m. on KCPR 91.3 FM.
Utilidor project tears up campus

By Trod Roodi
Summer Staff Writer

Traffic, torn up roads and closed-off parking lots are what Cal Poly students can expect when they begin their school year due to the campus utilities upgrade project known as “utilidor.”

Although no major disruptions are expected until late fall quarter, preliminary work has begun including closing certain campus areas and altering parking lots.

“We expect there to be scheduled road, sidewalk and bike lane closures and utilities disruptions,” Director of Facilities Planning Robert Kitamura said, “but the work is being carefully planned in stages to minimize the impact.”

The H-10 parking lot will be closed, H-11 will be converted to all disabled parking and staff spaces will be added to the H-2 lot.

While most parking lots will remain accessible, we are encouraging everyone to consider using alternative transportation when possible,” Kitamura said, “including car pools, van pools and buses.”

Public transportation will continue to serve all campus events.

A student negotiates the maze of fences produced by the Utilidor project near Dexter Lawn. /Photo by Michael Treadwell

“We are encouraging everyone to consider using alternative transportation.”

- Robert Kitamura, director of facilities planning

sidewalk between Dexter building 34 and Engineering West building 21. Also the stairway between Engineering West and the Education building and Crandall Gym will not be accessible.

Kitamura is working with representatives from the construction company to minimize campus disruption. Campus activities are expected to continue during the 20 month project.

The $23 million “utilidor” project is a mile-long underground corridor trenching around Perimeter Road to house new utilities for the university. The campus wide electrical system will be upgraded, the heating will be replaced and the water system will be improved.

Trenching will begin on Perimeter Road from Sept. 16 to Dec. 13 and overhead electrical work in the agricultural areas will begin then also.

The work is not expected to close traffic outlets off until late fall quarter.

The “utilidor hotline” at 756-6808 is set up to give project information including detours and planned disruptions. Information can also be obtained on the projects World Wide Web site: http://www.facerv.calpoly.edu/utility, or by sending e-mail to utilidor@shoc.calpoly.edu.

Poly professor leads talk on transporting Diablo nuclear waste

By Sandra Naughton
Summer Staff Writer

Fifteen local residents attended an informative presentation by a Cal Poly professor on the production, physics and danger involved in nuclear power plants to help them create an effective plan for transporting nuclear waste from Diablo Canyon.

The group, operating as the Nuclear Waste Management Committee, has met for the past several months to attempt to produce a safe route for moving nuclear waste from Diablo to the San Luis (railroad) line,” she said, naming the weight of storage casks, the weightload of bridges and roads, and emergency response capabilities as such needed details.

“People need to deal with something nasty from a platform of knowledge, not of fear.”

She added nuclear physics professor Arthur Z. Rosen’s presentation provided the type of background knowledge the committee needs to approach its task.

“I learned that some of the things I worried about are not necessarily worth worrying about,” she said, mentioning the negligible factor of thermal heat.

Providing background information about nuclear power plants and radioactive waste, Rosen spoke to the group for almost two hours on Aug. 7 at the Cal Trans District Office in San Luis Obispo.

In answering how power plants create nuclear energy, Rosen offered details about the Diablo Canyon plant.

“Nuclear waste is collected during the refueling process,” he said adding that the stored fuel would be six times as strong, he said.

Rosen also explained that if a cask containing 10-year-old radioactive waste broke while being transported, the radioactive exposure would be 2.25 times as strong as the average natural atmospheric exposure. If the spent fuel had been stored for only five years, the exposure would be six times as strong, he said adding that the spent fuel at Diablo Canyon ranges from nine to less than a year and a half old.

Most of the committee, composed of a variety of people from environmentalists to a California Highway Patrol officer, seemed easier to learn from Rosen, asking few questions after his presentation.

“I believe the county needs reliable information on all the issues, and so far we’ve gotten most of it from PG&E and the Department of Energy, who have shown in the past to have their own agendas,” said Klaus Schumpmann, “I think Dr Rosen is a good independent source.”

The public is invited to attend the committee’s next meeting in September. No date has been set, but notices should appear in the local media.

There have been 15 refusals since the plant was built; there are 1,200 old assemblies stored in the spent fuel pools.”

These assemblies contain numerous radioactive materials including uranium, he said.

Although Pacific Gas & Electric has not said it will definitely transport its waste from its current on-site storage pools, the federal government guaranteed all such plants that it would accept their waste by 1998 due to the 1982 National Energy Policy Act.

PG&E has announced plans to lengthen their fuel cycle to 24 months rather than the current 18-month cycle, which will be gradually implemented in a five-year period, Rosen said.

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