The state of Avila Beach

There was a time when, at the thought of Avila Beach, one could conjure up images of carefree teenagers playing hacky sack on the street, people fishing from the pier, hard bodies sprawled out in praise of the sun, families on the east side of the pier and Sunday afternoons listening to music and imbibing at Mr. Rick's.

A new element has come into the picture in the past couple of years. It's an image that doesn't invoke smiles. It's an image of rickety, 50-year-old underground pipes with oil coursing through them, of leaks in those pipes, of oil becoming a part of Avila Beach's very foundation.

The collective tension in City Council chambers was almost thick enough to form a cloud as the audience waited for the council members to make their decision regarding sitting on the sidewalk. The vote was 3-2 against the measure. 20 people showed up to share their opinions on the council. Afterwards, some are seeking solace by hoping one day a new oil company will come to town and pier of Avila.

Sitting on downtown sidewalks still okay

Lovers of freedom and the common man breathed a sigh of relief. Store owners favoring the ordinance and their supporters tried to retain their composure. A month ago, Deborah Holley with the Business Improvement Association (BIA) wrote a memo to City Council asking them to consider adopting a city ordinance that would prohibit sitting on the sidewalk during business hours.

The proposed ordinance would have actually prohibited sitting between 7 a.m. and midnight.

Councilwoman Dodie Williams, serving in her role as 20th信使, wrote a memo to City Council asking them to consider adopting a city ordinance that would prohibit sitting on the sidewalk during business hours.
Emergency training focuses on radio contest

By Kristen Hall
Summer Mustang Staff Writer

Using a small generator with enough power to operate an oven, and seven antennas mounted into the ground resembling something out of a bad science fiction movie, the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club (CPARC) contacted hundreds of other radio operators in the United States and Canada as part of a national contest.

About 35,000 amateur radio operators throughout North America participated in the annual American Radio Relay League's Field Day. The contest was to see who could successfully set up field communications and make the most radio contacts within a 24-hour period. However, the real purpose of the event was to practice emergency communication skills.

"We aren't out to win the contest," said David Fichou, a computer science graduate and club alumnus. "There are people out there with better equipment who will win. We are here for the practice."

Part of the contest rules were to use only emergency equipment, such as generators, battery-powered equipment and portable antennas. CPARC camped out at San Antonio Lake, and began assembling its field station on Friday at the visitor's center. It took almost four hours before all the equipment was up and running.

The contest began Saturday at 11 a.m. Fifteen CPARC members and alumni took turns making radio contacts with two radio receivers. Within the first two hours of the contest, 150 stations had been contacted.

"I'm hoping we make 1,000 contacts by the end of the 24 hours, but realistically we'll probably make about 750," said Dean Wood, an electrical engineering senior. "Our focus is North America but we have reached places as far as Europe, Asia and Japan in past contests."

By Sunday, the club had surpassed its goal, making more than 1,100 contacts. The contest winner last year made about 6,000 contacts and Wood said that's about the number of contacts that this year's winner is expected to make. The contest results will be known in November.

Club members say in good conditions they can send out a signal in the North and receive it back from the South after having traveled around the world. Wood said the most important part about making contacts is recording accurate information.

Whenever a contact is made, the radio operator must write down what city was contacted, what kind of power the operator was using, how many transmitters were simultaneously operating and its call sign. This is called the signal report and English is the standard language for transmitting it.

"There are a lot people and noise on the air so we need to be accurate and proficient in handling emergency traffic," Wood said. "It's a fast pace situation and being on the air helps us fine-tune our skills."

The club has been able to use its emergency skills on several occasions including the Highway 41 fire and Loma Prieta earthquake.

"The club is a means for the public to convey information to family members during emergencies. We support public safety communications," Wood said.

The club also provides communications for local events like parades, Diablo Canyon testing and last year's Wildflower Festival.

CPARC began at Cal Poly in 1947 and received its call sign, W6BHZ, in 1948. The club currently has 25 members, many of whom took an interest in radio while still in high school.

Mark Smith, computer engineering senior, drove over 200 miles to participate in the event. He's currently working at an internship in the Bay Area and said it's his fourth time competing in the Field Day.

"I like to camp and be a radio nerd, that's why I do it," Smith said.

Next year, members and club alumni will come together to celebrate CPARC's 50th anniversary during Spring Open House. To become a club member, students must obtain an amateur radio operator's license. The club has offered classes in the past to help students pass the test.

Emergency training focuses on radio contest
Local jazz series draws big names

By Anne Thomas
Summer Mustang Staff Writer

Jazzman Buddy Collette has played with greats such as Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. His flute and saxophone sounds have graced stages around the globe, but last Sunday they slipped in for an intimate performance in Cambria.

Collette's concert was part of the Famous Jazz Artist Series at the Hamlet at Moonstone Gardens in Cambria. The series has been drawing crowds at the Hamlet for six years, usually showcasing two well-known musicians each month.

Charlie Shoemaker, director of the series and also a jazz musician, said that when he and his wife moved to the Central Coast from Los Angeles they expected to spend most of their time traveling to play in different venues up and down the state. They soon decided, however, to dedicate themselves to building up the jazz scene in the area.

"On the Central Coast, the music scene is mostly amateur," he said. "It's really not a professional scene. The series has gone really great, because you just don't get acts like this around here."

Shoemaker and his wife Sandy make it a habit to join in with the visiting artists. He plays the vibraphone, and she is a vocalist.

Shoemaker said that many people have suggested that they move the popular series out of its scenic small Cambria setting into a larger venue, but he will not make the move. He said that the Hamlet's intimate environment serves as part of the shows' allure.

"It's special here," he said. "The Hamlet has gotten to be well-known all over. It's really amazing."

Shoemaker said that even though the Hamlet only seats 90 people, he is able to draw big names through connections he developed while in Los Angeles.

"I think this is a good location," said audience member Craig Ruiz of Morro Bay. "It's a unique venue compared to some of the other locations I've been to, and the view is great."

Buddy Collette has been in the jazz world for over 50 years both as an artist and an instructor. His Sunday night engagement featured two sets, as is standard for the series.

"The show was very good," said musician and Cal Poly Biochemistry student, Ryan Garcia. "It was a nice way to finish the weekend."

"I liked watching the drummer," said audience member Yvonne Obine. "It seems like a smaller environment, and you can hear the music," he said. "This is my third year coming to this," said Yvonne Obine. "It seems like a smaller environment, and you can hear the music."

Shoemaker said that the harmonica playing and the trumpet were his favorite aspects of the show's varied performers. "I noticed that even when I'm not really paying attention, music will still be tapping."

The Hamlet's Famous Jazz Artist Series' next show will feature flutist Holly Hoffman and pianist Bill Caniff. They will play chamber style jazz with no bass or drums. Reservations are recommended, call 541-7930.
They say the show must go on. It had all the necessary elements of a typical year-end dance studio recital. Headsets and microphones were buzzing with activity. Attendees and performers mingled, sipping drinks and chatting. The audience, composed of family, friends, and neighbors, eagerly awaited the start of the program.

By Anne Thomas
Summertime Staff Writer

Last Sunday at Avila, the weather was sunny and breezy, the beachgoers plentiful, and the water invitingly cool. When asked about the Unocal issue, smiles faded. Carefree attitudes temporarily shattered as people tried to sun-worship since the matter. I think Unocal, to a certain extent, is trying to do what’s right. Ultimately she lived years longer than doctors expected.

Pat Jackson died on June 16, 1997 at the age of 55, after a 10-year fight with breast cancer. Jackson was one of the most compelling forces in the local dance community. She began teaching in the basement of her San Luis Obispo home in 1972 and later formed the American Dance Company which has gone on to perform professionally. But Pat Jackson was known for more than her dancing.

"Miss Pat," the studio's founder, director and obvious hero was not on hand. Pat Jackson died on June 16, 1997 at the age of 55, after a 10-year fight with breast cancer.

Fred Yaeger, a retired military paratrooper from Santa Maria, said simply: "(Unocal) had been coming to Avila every weekend to sun-worship since this place. Students at Cal Poly tried to sum up their feelings regarding the beach that's given them such good times.

Not long before her death, Jackson learned that she was chosen to receive the Bob Fosse Dance Educator of the Year award. This award has been described as the Oscar of the dance world. She will be honored at the award ceremony in Hollywood later this year.

In general, Jackson's death has been marked by a celebration of her life and a continuation of her work. The tribute portion of the recital was greeted by cheers and hollers from the audience. Slides were shown with Jackson's picture, and one of her mottoes, "Shine! Shine! Shine!" which evoked a rue from many young dancers in the crowd. The recital, titled "A Trunkful of Memories," was centered around a reminiscent theme of looking back through years of dancing.

"When Pat and I chose the show title in January, I was not aware that it would hold such significant significance," explained Jackson's husband Norm. "Tonight we will stay with that theme, but one could easily believe that Pat is taking this trip around the world with us.

When it was all said and done, and the last bow was taken, Norm Jackson looked heavenward and said, "Well, we did it."
Cayucos will have its parade and want them to know they are welcome."

After the parade, the Lions Club will have a barbecue at the Veterans Hall, which will be preceded by beach games for families and bingo for seniors. At dusk, the fireworks will shoot off from Cayucos pier.

For some, sand castles at 6 a.m. doesn’t sound too appealing. Perhaps kayak and canoe races at 10 a.m. seems more enjoyable. If you can find the time, you can make a huge difference in a kid’s life.

Reeves was a Big Brother in Los Angeles 20 years ago and said it was one of the most rewarding things he’s ever done. Volunteers for the program are required to make a commitment to visit the same child once a week for one year.

"If you can find the time, you can make a huge difference in a kid’s life," Reeves said. "It helped me realize what it would be like to raise a kid."

Reeves was unable to continue in the program after moving to Morro Bay and becoming a commercial fisherman. However, he’s found a way to support the program through his business.

Reeves has paid for trophies that will be given to the winners of both races. So far, 15 people have entered into the contest.

Check-in for contestants is 8:30 a.m. and the festival at the lake runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is sponsored by oldies station 104.5 FM.

**CALENDAR**

- **What:** Fireworks
- **Where:** Cayucos Pier
- **When:** Dusk

- **What:** Fireworks
- **Where:** Morro Bay Pier
- **When:** Dusk

- **Activities:** Live music beginning at 3 p.m. on the pier.

**CALENDAR** from page 1

- **What:** Fireworks
- **Where:** Avila Beach, Unocal Pier
- **When:** 9:30 p.m.

- **What:** Fireworks
- **Where:** Shamel Park in Cambria
- **When:** Dusk

Dunham is very careful to make sure every fact is well-understood. She gave this reason: "People don't know who to trust right now. We need to keep all our facts consistent, and keep from giving opinions. If we don't watch what we say, things will get even more confusing.

Ten permanent signs will soon be erected in Avila Beach, on the beach itself and throughout town as public health notices that say contamination is being dealt with and that a health study is going on. The signs include Dunham’s phone number and website.

"I expect this to cause more people to call me," she said. "That includes people from the Central Valley who come here and know nothing about the leak yet."

Dunham said the past workshops have been very interesting.

For information about the time and place of the upcoming meeting, call (805) 397-5151.

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Steam stripping involves injecting steam and a substance called agar into the contamination to loosen it up, then sucking it off as it evaporates. McMasters said Unocal is doubtful this method will work. Solidification, the other method favored by Unocal, entails mixing the contamination with a watery mixture of mud, lime or plaster of Paris and leaving it beneath the ground. It took two months to clean it up by the full-evaporation method.

**The Lawsuit**

A group of Avila Beach residents filed suit against Unocal in February for property damage, economic loss and physical suffering. They haven’t come up with a specific amount to ask for in the suit yet. "No (government) agency has addressed how to compensate (these people)," said their attorney, Ed Masry. "Lawyers have the means to do it, and that’s why we’re suing." 

Last Thursday, Masry introduced an infra-red monitor to track pollution at Avila. According to a joint press release between Masry and Communities for a Better Environment, the "state-of-the-art" machine can "narrow down" the source of infrared emissions on Avila Beach. Masry says the device has picked up "abnormal" amounts of carbon disulfide, "more than you'd get from car exhaust." 

Masry said the device was used to track pollution at a San Francisco-area Unocal refinery. The results of those tests were used in a suit Masry and residents of Crockett filed against Unocal for pollution there. The plaintiffs won $80 million in the suit. Dr. Alvin Greenberg, the toxicologist hired by the county to do environmental testing at Avila, said he would have to do further investigations. But he also issued a caution: "The PTRC was made to measure fixed source emissions such as smokstacks. The idea of measuring contamination under the ground, it might not be as efficient." 

In Avila Beach, Greenberg said, the PTRC will pick up a lot of things in addition to what comes up through the ground. It can pick up a charbroiler that's lit up one of the nearby restaurants, cars that drive by, burning wood in the firepits on the beach and gas heaters, he said. "The emissions in Avila are the same in any suburban environment in California. That's why they keep showing up in our air samples." 

In addition to cars and charbroilers, other sources of chemicals are in Avila. Greenberg said a couple of weeks ago, road crews were patching asphalt cracks. Some of the chemicals used that would be picked up by the PTRC as well, he pointed out. Greenberg also said that a very dangerous chemical called ctautaric was released at the San Francisco refinery and picked up by the PTRC. No such chemical has been detected in Avila.

Meanwhile, Masry said he and the Avila Beach residents who are suing claim to "pick up" the infrared "as long as you’re reading a mirror which reflects the beam back into an internal computer or to chart toxic gases in the air." So far, Masry says the instrument has picked up "abnormal" amounts of carbon disulfide, "more than you'd get from car exhaust." 

The county planning department can make an informed decision, and the county supervisors will ultimately decide which method would best suit the environment. "The emissions in Avila are the same in any suburban environment in California. That’s why they keep showing up in our air samples. But I’ll review the results of the PTRC monitoring, evaluate them, and take note." 

"The emissions in Avila are the same as the same in any suburban environment in California. That’s why they keep showing up in our air samples."
City rejects Poly's Sports Complex proposal

By Sheldon Hebshi Summer Mustang News Editor

The city of San Luis Obispo announced Thursday that it will not help fund the proposed Cal Poly Sports Complex, despite months of negotiation with campus administrators and athletic personnel.

The city council will vote July 15 to officially reject the university's offer to allow the city 30 years of guaranteed use and $3 million, plus $1.5 million in interest on bonds, at its July 15 meeting and will also discuss where possible sites for new recreation fields in the city could be built with this money. Parks and Recreation Manager Paul LeBage said although he knew the decision for the limited term didn't come out of "left-field," he's disappointed the city wouldn't work it out with Cal Poly.

Now possible spots for future recreation fields are being looked at.

"One possibility is building at Lake Park, near Poly," Settle said. "We've received at least two sites to purchase and I'm sure there will be more.

These fields will be used by all residents, including Cal Poly students. Regardless of the lack of outside contributors, Cal Poly said the sports complex will still be completed by spring 1999 as promised.

Lebens added that the city is out of the project, the university is willing to be interested in rental of the fields or the stadium, that's up to the university."— Mayor Alan Settle

If the deal with the city didn't work out and now more money will also have to be raised privately.

"In the long-run I think it will be better this way," he said. "It's less complicated." Lebens added that renting to the west is still an option with the complex's usage.

"The ultimate user in the non-student hours would be youth groups who would have access on a rental basis," he said. "Any of that rental income will help with the debt."

Lebens and Sleeper insisted that the university's commitment to the complex still holds strong.

Lebens said discussions with ASI have begun informally this summer to try to at least frame the proposal to the students for the fall. If the city council vote and the board abandon that idea, "We need to talk to the student leadership to see if the term of the deal 'it'll be extended to a 25 or 30-year basis,'" he said.

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