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 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 system. Fire Marshal Erwin Willis said. The business could not be saved.

Five ASI directors reappointed to second term; 20 seats still open

Board to consider cutting campaign spending ceiling

By Jason Foster

The ASI Board of Directors announced at its meeting Wednesday night that five ASI directors were reappointed by their school councils to serve on the board for the 1990-91 term.

Kerrie Whitelaw of the School of Science and Mathematics and Tiffany Levine of the School of Professional Studies and Education were reappointed Feb. 15. Brett Berridge of the School of Agriculture was reappointed Tuesday, while Aji Chakradox and John Sakamoto of the School of Engineering were reappointed Wednesday.

Ellen Sanders, chairman of ASI's Board of Directors, said after the meeting that those five directors probably are not the only ones seeking to serve another term.

"There was a lot of controversy surrounding 89-01," Sanders said. About the 1989 resolution that gave Board of Directors members the option for running for reappointment. "Some directors weren't in favor of it and would rather be re-elected for another year."

"We don't know exactly who is going to be running until the end of the (election) filing period," she said. In other business, ASI's Elections Committee presented a candidate's packet for the 1990 ASI election. The packet, which includes campaign rules and candidate eligibility requirements, will probably be voted on next week.

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Poly Forensics Team finds delight in debate

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 witnesses who compete in individual competitions such as oral interpretation and dramatic reading, said speech communications professor Terry Winebrenner, coaches the team, which has competed this quarter in Oregon, Fresno and Sacramento.

"Many students aren't well versed in debate," Shea 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.

Debbie 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," Dougherty said. Dougherty and her debate teammate, Claire Friesen, tied for first place with the Cal Poly team in the Oregon Speech Association's Affirmative Resolution Tournament.

Monetary misery...

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

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.

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 of heart attack last October after a five-hour fraternity ritual. Now, leaders of all eight national black fraternities and sororities have recommended halting the pledging process at least until graduation. They believe it is time to take the lead in a movement that should be joined by all campuses and communities. 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 fraternities to ban excessive hazing, physical, verbal degradation, sexual humiliation and other hazing during the pledging period. Yet despite such laws, state laws and college regulations, the dangers of hazing have continued. Now Greek-letter organizations are taking the ultimate step to avoid committing the abuses: Zeta Beta Tau, a predominately black fraternity at Cal Poly, decided to drop pledging. This in turn promotes the National Panhellenic Conference to continue the legacy of leadership and save lives.

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

Opinion

Mexican's Lee economic woes

By Marcel Sedletzky

Someone said, "Show me a country which exports its raw materials and imports manufactured goods, and I'll show you a colony." Those who think Mexico is a colony may have been involved in the Mexican economy. My Mexican economy 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 American), both President Echeverria and his successor Perez have committed Mexico to huge foreign debts in an effort to become 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, no 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 the existing debt, thus increasing the debt itself and getting Mexico firmly into the trap. From a staggering $3 billion in 1973, Mexico's foreign debt rose to an even more staggering $108 billion just a year ago. This put on its knees by the lenders, Mexico had to restructure its $51 percent held on key industries, opened to credit policy to foreign investors at full ownership, creating "maquiladoras," a form of foreign industries that utilize cheap Mexican labor, transforming Mexico into an economic colony and a labor camp for foreigners, mostly Americans. This inability to generate domestic wealth spelt dismal 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 limited purchasing power. 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.

Letters to the Editor

Poly should offer undeclared major

Editor — Cal Poly's policy of declaring a major should be re-evaluated and changed. All students at Poly should have a choice of major when they applied. Many students were not sure what they wanted to do or had already been exposed to the different career choices. Still, they went to go to Poly. This early decision has forced many students to make bad or poor decisions where the lack of undeclared major makes Poly a career-oriented school that helps students get through faster and with a better education than other colleges. The simple truth is this policy does not necessarily get students through faster. Graduation rates at Poly are comparable to those at other California State Universities.

Without an undeclared major, students who do want to change majors run into large barriers that take extra time to overcome. This results in lost time in an undeclared major and more time until graduation.

The undeclared major should come back to Cal Poly. Aside from allowing an easier transition when changing majors, this new major will ease overcrowding in major courses by moving out people that don't want to be there.

The creation of the undeclared major may increase the demand for general education classes, but this can be remedied by adding more sections of general education courses (something that should already be done).

There are certainly other reasons for and against this change in policy. All I needed to do was introduce the idea of changing a policy that is long overdue.

Timothy J. Ford

Electrical Engineering

Get student input on grading policy

Editor — How dare the Academic Senate attempt to have the opinion of credit/no credit grading by students. It's just a case of "hot shots" trying to create more restrictions. Did Academic Senate attempt to consult the students before submitting its resolution? Besides that, aren't there already enough regulations at Cal Poly? The Academic Senate's proposal is just another regulatory measure that stifles diversity. Does the Academic Senate desire to simply pump up duplicate Poly students?

Credit/no credit grading was established to encourage students to take a broader approach toward their education. Currently, most students have an extremely large course curriculum with limited electives.

Credit/no credit grading allows students to take additional classes. This is sure promotes diversity which makes the world more exciting.

The proposal will only have a negative effect. I ask ASI Board of Directors to deny the proposal until Academic Senate obtains more student input.

Ludwig F. Vukic

Electrical Engineering
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."

Bandler also said the Elections Committee thinks this suggested change would bring out the resourcefulness and creativity in people running for office. It would get candidates to rely less on posters and campaign more by talking at open forums and club meetings.

"We wanted to test this for one year, but there was strong opposition. That’s why we didn’t change it," said Bandler. "I don’t know if it will get changed."

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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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.

"The goal is to make it easier for students and employers to get together under the same time frame," said Debi 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 Cal Poly."
Sprinklers

From page 1

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 vacuated 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 100 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 Jake Reindersma, who is working on the Etcetera building, said owners can add on the cost of the sprinkler system to the price of building.

"If (Etcetera) will be the most valuable property on that street (after sprinklers are installed)," Reindersma said.
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SYMPOSIUM
From page 4
the students and programs at Cal Poly.
"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 Corinne 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 great success with Cal Poly poultry science and food science graduates," said Warren K. Schultz, senior personnel representative for Zacky Farms.

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 Rainin 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 chicken says, "will be my last debate, 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 Windemuehler 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 "spend most of my time in the library." Such extensive research and preparation is a great learning experience, she said.
"I have a lot more knowledge on this topic (foreign investment) than if I'd took 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 Schonheider 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 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.

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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.
• Women'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 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.

Sunday, February 25
• Baseball at UOP — Game time is 1 p.m.

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